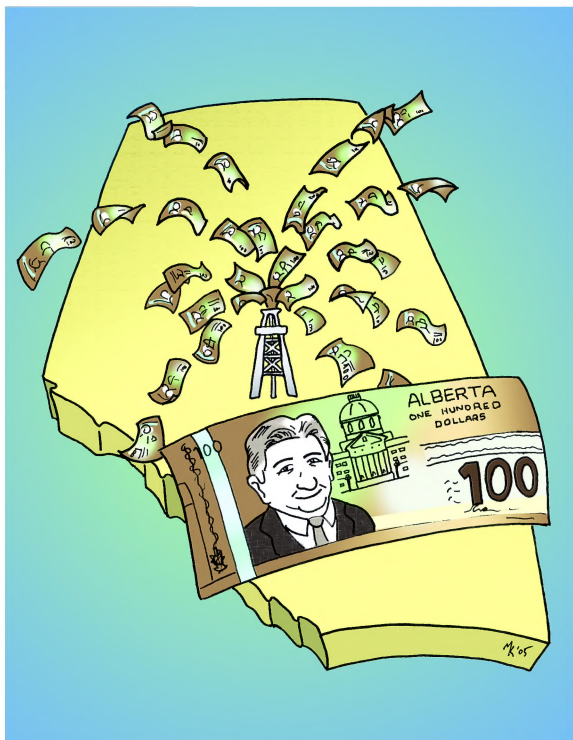


THE GATEWAY

volume XCVI number 21 • the official student newspaper at the university of alberta • www.gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, 24 november, 2005



MIKE KENDRICK

THE BIG GREEN ALBERTA SKY Scholarship funds are flowing from Alberta to students across the country.

Alberta Centennial Scholarships giving students across Canada reason to celebrate

\$2005 awards to be spread among students from all provinces and territories

CHLOÉ FÉDIO
Deputy News Editor

Postsecondary students from coast to coast will benefit from Alberta's newest endowment fund, a \$20 million initiative that will see the province provide \$2005 scholarships to 325 students annually.

The Alberta Centennial Scholarship, announced by Premier Ralph Klein on Monday, will be distributed to students across Canada, with each province and territory nominating 25 recipients for the award. The scholarship, set to take effect in 2006, will be open to any student of a recognized postsecondary institution, be it a uni-

versity, college, technical institute or apprenticeship program.

Alison Gates-Kriston, spokesperson for Alberta Advanced Education, explained that the scholarship, funded by the 2006/07 Alberta budget, was established with a one-time expenditure of \$20 million and is expected to maintain or increase its value over time. It will be established within the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund, and the funds for the program will be generated from the interest of the endowment.

Students' Union Vice-President (External) Samantha Khor said the scholarship announcement was unexpected.

"It was surprising, because it dealt with the national unity aspect. And it's also kind of surprising because [Klein] did make a lot of promises about post-secondary and making grand changes to the postsecondary system in Alberta. Using this as one of the follow-ups to that is kind of disconnected; it doesn't really show the follow-through that we were hoping for," she said.

Power went on to suggest that creating an affordable tuition policy, as was promised as part of the postsecondary review, in addition to providing base funding to universities in the province would have been more beneficial.

PLEASE SEE SCHOLARSHIP • PAGE 4

Petition questions head back to Council

JAKE TROUGHTON
Senior News Editor

The Students' Union's Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement (DIE) Board has sent twelve rejected petition questions back to Students' Council, but the news isn't all good for the student who proposed the questions.

Chris Jones, an Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics student, appealed to DIE Board after Council decided at its 1 November meeting to throw out all twelve of the questions he proposed, on the grounds that they had been proposed "in bad faith," due to the number of them and the "absurd" nature of some of them. The questions ranged from changing how the SU's representative on the University's Board of Governors are chosen, to making Frisbeetarianism the SU's official religion. Another question that would have the SU's businesses serve Halal and Kosher food was tossed out by Council's Bylaw Committee on the same grounds following that Council meeting.

On Monday, DIE Board released its ruling, ordering Council to reconsider the questions on an individual basis. However, it also affirmed the argu-

ment of Gregory Harlow, the speaker of Council, that the bylaw governing the petition process, along with all SU bylaws, includes an implied term "that the processes enshrined in the bylaws are to be used exclusively in good faith," leaving the door open for Council to reject some of the questions.

That's only a partial victory for Jones, who had argued in favour of a literalist reading of the bylaw at the 7 November DIE Board hearing. He had asked that Council be ordered to consider the questions only for their legality and accordance with its intent in proposing them, as laid out in Bylaw 2440.

"I think the biggest problem with the ruling is not in terms of the outcome, but in terms of the process, in the sense that it creates the idea of implied terms in bylaws, which nobody knows what they are," said Jones.

"It would've been much better if DIE Board had decided that the bylaws, as they are, mean what they say and say what they mean. Students' Council can always go back and change them whenever it sees fit."

PLEASE SEE PETITIONS • PAGE 2

U of A gets low grades for helping students find jobs

DEREK LARSON
News Writer

It seems that desirable part-time jobs are becoming increasingly difficult to find for students these days. At least, that's what most students at the University of Alberta seem to think, according to a recently released survey.

The University Report Card, compiled by the Strategic Council in association with studentawards.com, was released by the *Globe and Mail* earlier this month. The U of A's lowest score was a C- in assistance with locating part-time jobs, tying for second-last place among the ten Canadian universities with enrollment over 25,000.

But Laura Manuel, promotions coordinator of Career and Placement Services (CAPS), thinks that students simply have the wrong perception of what resources are available to them.

However, she does acknowledge that helping students find part-time jobs is really a secondary function of CAPS.

"We will post part-time jobs, but they have to be career related," she said. "That means we're not necessarily going to post a job that isn't going

to help a student with their career after they graduate with a degree."

That's not to say that CAPS won't help students find a part-time job. They offer seminars, advisors, and a variety of resources to those willing to come in and ask for them.

But, as Vice-President (Student Life) Justin Kehoe says, not everyone feels the same way.

"I've heard some concerns from students about how effective [CAPS] is at offering these services to students," said Kehoe. "Perhaps CAPS has just grown into a bureaucratic, unwieldy beast that is, on paper, a huge resource for students, but in practice not fulfilling that role effectively."

Other grades on the report card were also somewhat scathing, even in areas in which CAPS specializes. In the categories of quality of career preparation, career counselling and placement services, and on-campus employment opportunities, the U of A tied for third, second, and fourth, respectively, of the ten large universities in Canada. However, Manuel doesn't view this as a problem, as the grades in these categories were quite low across Canada.

PLEASE SEE CAPS • PAGE 3

Inside

News 1-4
Opinion 6-10
Feature 11-12
A&E 13-17
Sports 18-21
Comics 22
Classifieds 23



Charlize: the bee's knees

Hollywood starlet Charlize Theron tells Amanda Ash that having a hot body in Hollywood has its drawbacks.

A&E, PAGE 13



Is this the end?

More bad news for the Bears basketball team, as Phil Sudol's ACL injuries are far from fully healed.

SPORTS, PAGE 18

THE GATEWAY

thursday, 24 november, 2005
volume XXVI number 21Published since 21 november, 1910
Circulation 11 000
ISSN 0845-356XSuite 3-04
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THE GATEWAY is published by the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS), a student-run, autonomous, apolitical and non-profit organization, operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.

THE GATEWAY is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian University Press.

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, Unisys Powerbook 5500 flatbed scanner, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe Design is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of Futura, Knappe, Joanna, and Atrium. The Macintosh is the Gateway's sister paper. The Gateway's games of choice are Mario Kart DS and Dragon Quest VII.

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Students deserve chance to debate questions: Jones

Harlow predicts most questions will be approved by Council, but argues some clearly posed in bad faith

PETITIONS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Conversely, while Council's original decision to toss out the questions wholesale was overturned, Harlow said DIE Board's ruling was consistent with Council's reasoning.

"I think a number of those questions are actually quite important. How can you say that, for example, selling Halal and Kosher food at the Powerplant, RATT and Xpress is in bad faith?"

CHRIS JONES

"On the substantive point, I think Council's ruling was upheld," said Harlow.

"I'm very pleased. I think this is a reasonable ruling. ... In the common law, there's well-established jurisprudence that says, when you've granted jurisdiction, you have to exercise it for

the purpose it was intended. In this case, the discretion that's been granted to all members of the Students' Union is to submit legitimate questions to be put forward to students, but not to make a mockery of the process."

While he argued in favour of the original decision to strike all twelve questions from the order paper, Harlow said he expected Council would only throw out a few of the questions on Tuesday.

"This is a ruling that only catches truly egregious abuses of discretion," he said.

"Establishing Frisbeetarianism as the official religion, is I think, so clearly egregious that no reasonable person could see it as anything other than a bad faith action. But I think, frankly, probably the majority of Mr Jones' questions will pass muster, at least on the point of bad faith."

Jones denied that the flurry of questions he's submitted were in bad faith; while he said he doesn't agree with the goals of all of them, he thinks students should have the opportunity to decide, through petition, if they should be on the ballot.

"It's not a question of whether we're going to have 20 referendum questions this year. We will if—and only



CHRIS JONES

A PARTIAL VICTORY Chris Jones' questions are heading back to Council.

if—students want that," he noted.

"I think a number of those questions are actually quite important. How can you say that, for example, selling Halal and Kosher food at the Powerplant, RATT and Xpress is in bad faith? It's rather difficult to say that."

The ruling also says that any questions ultimately approved will be given a full 90 days to collect signatures to

make up for the delays, although Jones had explicitly asked not to be given an extension because it could prove problematic for the Chief Returning Officer, Rachel Woyonowski, to get questions on the ballot with limited time if enough signatures are collected. Jones suggested that he may appeal that aspect of the ruling. Any appeals must be filed by Tuesday.

STREETERS

On Monday, Premier Ralph Klein announced the establishment of a \$20 million endowment fund that will provide 325 scholarships, each worth \$2005, to be evenly distributed to students across Canada.

What are your thoughts on this initiative?

Philippa Ngaju
Engineering IIIJoe Lent
Science IIKaryn Graham
Arts IIPatrick Laplante
Engineering I

I think it's a good thing that Ralph Klein is putting a lot of emphasis on funding postsecondary education. ... From an international student standpoint, I'd say that if it's applicable to all students, that would be really great. I think we pay too much money and it's not like we get exclusive services. So, I really think that they should probably think of slightly subsidizing international students' tuition.

I think that's alright. At least he's finally deciding to pay attention to education, but he should have waited until 2007, because that extra \$2 would have been really nice.

He's giving money to the whole country? I think that that money should stay in Alberta, personally, because it's the taxpayers' money and I'd prefer for it to go to Alberta students rather than students all over the country. I think [scholarships] are a really good way for students to pay for their education.

Spending surplus dollars on scholarships, I say is good. But giving it to all the other provinces? I think it's kind of not good, because the other provinces, they really give a lot more scholarship backing to their students in the first place, and Alberta, from what I've heard, is one of the lowest. They really should focus more on people inside Alberta.

Compiled and photographed by Chloé Fedio and Iris Tse

8101 - 103 St.
Whyte Ave.



LINED WITH GATEWAYS? Psychology professor Dr Chris Sturdy and some of the black-capped chickadees he's studied.

Study finds bird calls have meaning

HANNA NASH
News Writer

Researchers from the University of Alberta have recently completed a study suggesting that the black-capped chickadee, a bird common in Alberta, has meaning in its calls and pays attention to particular aspects of them.

Dr. Chris Sturdy, assistant professor in psychology, and Dr. Isabelle Charrier, a post-doctoral fellow in Sturdy's lab, exposed wild birds from the Edmonton area to a number of different recorded black-capped chickadee calls to observe their reactions.

"We were trying to figure out what it is that the birds are paying attention to, whether it's the actual pitch of the song or how fast the song is. We wanted to see what it was about a call that made it a call, and what made it recognizable by a black-capped chickadee as a black-capped chickadee call," Sturdy said.

Understanding the calls of these birds could be beneficial for humans, he explained, as much of the research done on how songbirds learn and think has revealed that their learning patterns are similar to humans.

"Songbirds, like humans, learn their

vocalizations from a model, through imitation. And obviously, you can do lots of things with songbirds that you can't do with humans. You can't take humans and put them into different acoustic environments, but you can do that with birds," said Sturdy.

He went on to explain that, by using an analogous system, researchers can develop therapies based on the birds' responses that can later be applied to humans.

"You know where in the brain song calls are learned," he said. "If you have some kind of a brain injury that screws up call production, you might be able to use that knowledge and extrapolate that to humans and try to recover speech production after some kind of brain injury."

One aspect of the call that Sturdy and Charrier found surprising was the order of the notes of the calls; by adjusting the order, the responses of the birds would change.

"One thing that's important to keep in mind is that a lot of the calls are learned—these calls are not innate. So, if you take a black-capped chickadee and rear it in isolation, it's not going to produce a proper call. The calls are learned over many many repetitions.

If you play a call in its reversed syntax, it wouldn't match [what the bird knows]," Sturdy said.

The black-capped chickadee uses its calls throughout the year, though mainly in the fall and the winter when it's part of a flock. The calls that the bird uses can have an array of potential meanings.

"Some people have shown that particular note types in the chickadee call are more likely to cause birds to visit a feeder. So there's one note type that seems like it has something to do with food acquisition. But we're really just at the beginning stages of trying to figure out what it is that a particular call actually means," Sturdy said.

He added that, while analogies with human learning are important, the research is inherently interesting in its own right.

"[This research] increases our understanding of the natural world. To some people, this doesn't mean anything, because the natural world is something to go out and use and help drive your truck. But there are a lot of creatures in the world that we share the biosphere with, so it would be nice to understand how it is that they communicate just on a basic science point of view."

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CaPS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Compared to other universities within Canada of our size, I think we're doing pretty well," she said, noting that among job opportunities on campus, several positions aren't filled.

Also, when looking at the U of A from an employer's perspective, as opposed to the students', the report found a marked difference in the ranking. In categories such as reputation of the University among employers, the U of A was tied for third overall.

Still, Kehoe said that the survey acts as an indicator, and that there could be room for improvement at CaPS.

"They're going to have to carefully assess exactly what the purpose of CaPS is, what needs they aren't meeting that is causing this perception of poor service in that area, and then take measures accordingly," said Kehoe.

But apparently not all students find it difficult to find part-time employment, according to Dennis Urbaniak, a graduate student employed part-time in the CaPS office.

"[The job opportunities on campus are] really good for people like inter-



JAMES LEUNG

EVERYTHING'S C-MINUS OKAY CaPS Promotions Coordinator Laura Manuel.

national students who need to be employed on campus," he said. "I think there are lots of organizations that hire both international and Canadian students."

Even Kehoe finds the grades somewhat misleading.

"I would be cautious on following those newspapers, surveys and report cards that get published ... as cold hard facts and the absolute truth, and we would be misguided in making all university-based decisions solely around that feedback."

'Nahanni Forever' seeks to protect park from mine project

ALEXANDER DEACON
News Staff

Made famous by Pierre Trudeau's visit in the 1970s, Nahanni National Park in the Northwest Territories has been inspiring photographers and outdoor enthusiasts ever since. Today, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) says the park is threatened by an impending upstream mine.

On 16 November, CPAWS hosted a presentation called "Nahanni Forever" in the Myer Horowitz Theatre, the third stop in a 17-city tour. The presentation featured talks by Harvey Locke, a CPAWS conservation advisor, Dr David Schindler, Killam Memorial Professor of Ecology here at the University, and a short set by Edmonton-based folk singer Melissa Majeau.

Nahanni Forever was organized

in reaction to the possibility of the Prairie Creek mine, which lies just upstream of the National Park boundary, reopening. Locke explained that the mine was developed in the 1980s but never actually operated. The abandoned site is now the home of 40 tonnes of cyanide which has been stored at the site ever since, posing serious environmental concerns.

"The foyers of the mine" left all this garbage when they went broke, and it's been rotting away there for 25 years. The barrels of cyanide left at the site haven't been rolled out," Locke said, adding that the danger is compounded because the area around the mine has had many severe earthquakes.

"This is not a stable environment, and not a place where you want to be doing these things," he remarked.

Schindler emphasized the enormous

cost of reclaiming mines as an incentive to halt any further mining activity in close proximity to the park. He cited the Auditor General of Canada's 2002-2004 task force that examined the issue of abandoned mines, in which he took part, to illustrate the high cost to taxpayers.

"[The task force] pointed out that we, the taxpayers of Canada, are on the hook for \$505 million dollars for reclamation, due to [mining operations] that started out, but couldn't make a go of it and scrapped everything."

CPAWS' aim goes beyond halting nearby mining activity, but also to expand the borders of the park by 35 000 square kilometers to encompass the entire Nahanni watershed. Not only will this effectively halt the current mining proposals, but it will also have many benefits for local First Nation's groups, as well as wildlife,

explained Locke.

"We've seen all the problems with park wildlife in Banff and Jasper. We now know, with modern technology and modern science, that those parks aren't big enough."

**DR DAVID SCHINDLER,
KILLAM PROFESSOR OF ECOLOGY**

"For the Dehcho people, the Nahanni is the source of their basic stories, as a people," he said. "So picture a civilization whose very creation

stories—the very laws they live by—are tied to this landscape."

Before showing the audience slideshow presentation of a canoe trip he took on the Nahanni in the 1970s, Schindler emphasized the need to expand the park to preserving wildlife habitat.

"We've seen all the problems with park wildlife in Banff and Jasper. We now know with modern technology and modern science that those parks aren't big enough. We didn't protect the [wildlife] winter ranges. Now we know where those animals are in Nahanni; this is our big chance to make Nahanni big enough to accommodate all the wildlife."

"There are scientific, ethical, and moral reasons to protect Nahanni National Park," added Schindler. "We don't need another grotty mine in here messing this place up."

Scholarship funded from surplus bigger than Saskatchewan's budget

SCHOLARSHIP • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"If they had set up a \$20 million endowment to go toward funding decreased tuition levels over the next few years, that would have been a larger plus for us. It would have helped students out a lot more than just random scholarships," Power said.

The government has committed \$1.3 billion of this year's surplus to endowment funds, including \$250 million more for the Heritage Scholarship Fund, \$200 million more for the Heritage Medical Research Fund and \$750 million in investment towards the Access to the Future Fund. Gates-Kriston explained that this new

\$20 million endowment is a separate initiative.

"If they had set up a \$20 million endowment to go toward funding decreased tuition levels over the next few years, that would have been a larger plus for us."

**SAMANATHA POWER,
SU VP (EXTERNAL)**

"It won't have any impact on Alberta

scholarships except that there will be an additional 25 scholarships available to Alberta students," she said, adding that the new scholarship program and those already established are for the long-term.

"There's no end to them. They're sustainable, they're fully funded and they're secure and in place for Alberta students now and for future generations," Gates-Kriston said.

University of Calgary Students' Union President Bryan West was optimistic about the news.

"[Klein] is trying to show the rest of Canada that Alberta is not greedy, and prosperity in Alberta means prosperity for the rest of Canada," West

suggested.

West did admit that the move was "a bit bizarre," but he said that in the big picture, \$20 million is "just a drop in the bucket." Alberta's surplus this year is an astounding \$8.7 billion, more than a billion dollars more than the entire budget of Saskatchewan.

Klein made the announcement in Ottawa during the first stop in his three-city tour to discuss the Alberta's economy with the rest of the nation. Gates-Kriston explained that this initiative was just another part of Alberta's centennial celebrations.

"The centennial year is winding up, so the Premier wanted to get the ini-

tiative launched before the centennial year was over, and being in Ottawa it was an appropriate time to announce the program to the rest of Canada," she said.

One University of Lethbridge political science student, Luke Mather, was confused by the motives behind the announcement.

"It's not trying to buy votes with it," Mather said. He suggested that the Premier may be trying to "go out huge," and leave a legacy behind when he leaves political office next year.

• With files from Nathan Sharpe, CUP Alberta and Northern Bureau Chief



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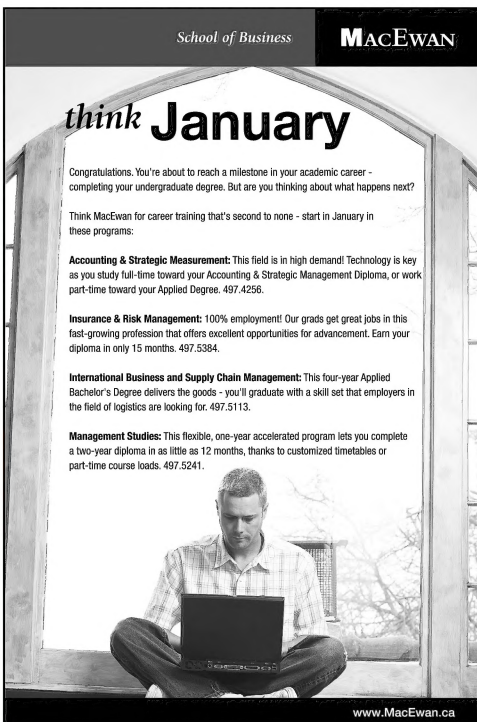
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Giant telescope to turn eye to skies

BRUNA HALLAM
CUP British Columbia Bureau Chief

VICTORIA (CUP)—Canadian scientists are behind a plan to build the world's largest telescope.

With a diameter of 30 metres, the Thirty-Metre Telescope (TMT) would be nine times bigger than the current largest telescope, which is ten metres in diameter. It's estimated that the project will take \$750 million and ten years to complete.

While the telescope won't allow astronomers to see anything new—they can already see to the end of the universe—it will make things much clearer.

"The telescope will bring greater clarity and help satisfy our curiosity about what's out there," said David Halliday, vice-president and director of special projects at AMEC, the international project management and engineering services company behind the project.

Among the things scientists are hoping to see are planets, life and dark matter. TMT will allow for the study of black holes and how they affect galaxies, including the black hole in the centre of our galaxy, the Milky Way.

"This instrument can literally look back to the beginning of time. It can look at galaxies and planetary systems. It can look, essentially, for life," said Halliday.

AMEC engineers are currently working on the telescope itself, which will

be made up of 780 hexagonal mirror segments, and the enclosure around the telescope.

If all goes well, the project will start construction in 2008, and will be completed by 2015. Possible sites for the telescope, which will be the size of a football field, are in Hawaii, Mexico and Chile. The entire structure is expected to weigh close to 4000 tonnes. The large size of the project will present a number of challenges for the team.

"This instrument can literally look back to the beginning of time. It can look at galaxies and planetary systems. It can look, essentially, for life."

DAVID HALLIDAY,
AMEC VICE-PRESIDENT AND
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS

"The problems get very much larger as you scale up," said Halliday. Specifically, getting 780 mirrors to move together will be an "incredible challenge." Despite the difficulties, Halliday said he doesn't "see any showstoppers yet."

TMT will be state of the art, said Halliday, noting that many of the

instruments required haven't even been designed yet.

AMEC started work on the TMT four years ago, and was joined by the National Research Council of Canada to draft concept designs.

According to Halliday, a presentation at a symposium generated international interest in their design solution for the telescope.

"We gained a lot of credibility, which provided a vehicle for us to join forces with other groups," he said.

The project also has the support of the Association of Canadian Universities for Research in Astronomy (ACURA), an organization of Canadian universities dedicated to the advancement of research and teaching in astronomy and astrophysics in Canada. Five Canadian universities are involved with the project.

"The TMT is one of the most exciting international science projects, and universities are pleased to collaborate with AMEC," said Pekka Siivola, chair of the Institutional Council of ACURA. "This will be the research instrument for the next generation of astronomers."

The need for a telescope with the power of TMT has been identified in the Canadian Long Range Plan for Astronomy as well as in the US National Academy of Sciences report "Astronomy and Astrophysics in the New Millennium" as the highest priority new ground-based facility for the first decade of the 21st century.

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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Compiled by Jake Troughton

RACIST GRAFFITI TARGETS MUSLIMS AT WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY

WATERLOO, ON (CUP)—First noticed by some international students, one of the several racist graffiti recently discovered on Wilfrid Laurier University's campus read, "Kill all Muslims."

It's the latest in a string of disturbing discoveries on Canadian campuses—earlier this month the University of Manitoba reported racist remarks directed at Aboriginals had been scribbled on its bathroom doors, and graffiti directed at Muslims was discovered last year at McGill University in Montreal.

Bojena Kelmendi, International Student Coordinator at Laurier, said that, while she had not seen the written insults herself, she was upset to hear about their presence on campus.

"My personal reaction was that I was deeply disturbed, because first, it's an academic environment so you usually don't associate open displays like that with an academic environment," said Kelmendi.

Pointing to the fact that there haven't been incidents like this before, Kelmendi said she believes that someone from outside the University could have done it.

WLU President Bob Rosehart said the school "will use every vehicle" to find the culprits.

Rosehart also noted that WLU does not see many occurrences such as this, but he admitted that some students may now feel threatened.

"It definitely makes some students uncomfortable, in terms of concern and anxiety," he said. "It's not a pleasant thing."

Dan Polischuk, the Cord Weekly

SHOWER WATER TURNS STUDENTS' HAIR 'NINJA-TURTLE-GREEN'

SACKVILLE, NB (CUP)—Mt. Allison University has employed the services of a consulting firm to test the University's water supplies after students in three residences complained of discoloured hair after showering.

"It's a really big problem to walk around with 'ninja-turtle-green hair,'" said an angry Campbell Hall resident at a presentation on Mt. Allison's water quality last Wednesday.

Dillon Consulting has found that the water on campus is safe to drink, but that it is "aggressive," meaning it has low pH, low alkalinity, and is deficient in

carbonates. The combination of these factors means that copper ions, such as those found on the insides of much of the piping in residences, attach themselves more easily to the water.

Jeff Earle, one of the representatives from Dillon Consulting at the presentation, said the problem was amplified when the water was left in the pipes overnight. When students went to shower in the morning, it was possible that enough copper had collected in the water to change the colour of lightly coloured hair and give it a greenish tinge.

Some residents of Campbell, however, claim that the discolouration was more than a tinge, as some have had their hair professionally treated in order to remove the green.

"We don't want to shower there," said one resident. "I haven't since mid-September."

Representatives from Dillon Consulting are now working with the town of Sackville as well as the University to determine the extent of the problem and the most appropriate solution. If the water is found to be aggressive throughout the entire town's water system, the easiest way to deal with the problem would be at the treatment plant just outside of town.

William Wolfe-Wylie, CUP Atlantic Bureau Chief


gateway student journalism society

STUDENT-AT-LARGE REQUIRED

The Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS) requires a student-at-large from the University community to serve on its board of directors for the term ending 30 April, 2006.

Applicants must be U of A undergraduate students and may not be members of Students' Council, General Faculties Council, Board of Governors, or the Senate of the University of Alberta.

If you are interested, please submit a brief note (no more than 400 words) on what makes you a good candidate for this position no later than noon on Monday, 9 January, 2006 to the Chair of the GSJS board. Submissions can be made by e-mail to adam@gateway.ualberta.ca, or through the campus mail to Adam Rozenzhan, c/o Gateway Student Journalism Society, 3-04 SUB.

Please outline previous volunteer experience and not-for-profit organization experience if applicable (though none is explicitly required).

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Do your civic duty: don't vote

WITH A JANUARY FEDERAL ELECTION now all but a certainty, many pundits are worried that the winter weather will lead to a further precipitous drop in voter turnout rates that have already fallen for four straight elections, reaching an all-time low of 60.5 per cent in 2004. I don't know whether these concerns will prove valid, but to those who haven't voted in the past, and are planning not to in January, I have only one thing to say: good for you.

Okay, so not all non-voters deserve kudos. In fact, I imagine the vast majority are motivated (or unmotivated) by nothing but laziness and apathy, rather than having any particular reason for not casting a ballot. But the truth is, not voting is a legitimate option, and these days, it may well be the best one.

Just look at the other choices. The Liberal party that's reigned for what seems like forever—in fact, there are probably many Gateway readers who don't remember a non-Liberal government in Ottawa—has found itself caught in a constant barrage of scandals for years. The Conservatives came about as a coalition of two parties that didn't agree on everything, and seemingly decided to avoid any potential friction by just not having a policy on the contentious issues. And the NDP's platform is, as always, clearly that of a party that knows it won't govern, so just tosses out every neat-sounding idea it comes up with.

Frankly, the best choice out of the major parties is the Bloc Québécois, if you put aside the slight matter of them wanting to tear the country apart, but most Canadians don't even have the option to vote for them. And even if there is a party you decide it's tolerable to vote for, the new funding rules in effect since last election mean that you're not just supporting them in the vote tally, you're supporting them financially, to the tune of \$1.75 per vote, per year. It's not much money, but it's still something to keep in mind at the ballot box. You may decide that it's worth plugging your nose and voting *Grin* to keep the Tory from winning, or vice versa, but is it still worth doing if you're essentially making a donation in the process?

Of course, not voting isn't the only option. A similar, but better, one is to spoil your ballot, as I'm proud to say I've done twice running. At least then, your refusal to pick the lesser evil is theoretically counted in some way. There are also minor party and independent candidates in many ridings, who generally deserve far more consideration than they receive. The usual response to that is something like, "I don't want to throw away my vote," but surely, to the vast majority who are dissatisfied with the major parties, adding \$1.75 to, say, the Green party's war chest is much more meaningful than doing the same for a big party in an almost-certainly-useless attempt to keep the slightly greater evil out of office.

But the thing is, politics in Canada these days are messed up; most of the candidates simply don't deserve our votes, and the major parties certainly don't deserve our money. Staying away from the polls may not be the best response to frustration with the system, but for the most part, it sure as hell beats voting.

JAKE TROUGHTON
Senior News Editor

Feeling gay? Just give it a few years

THE VATICAN HAS RELEASED A REPORT stating that, although sexually active gay men may not be admitted into the priesthood, those who have overcome their deviant sexual tendencies for at least three years may enter the clergy.

These so-called "transitory homosexuals" cannot support gay culture, thus further renouncing the gay subculture that has existed in the Roman Catholic Church for hundreds of years. Thought critics warn that this policy may result in seminarians lying about their sexual orientation, it seems more likely that they would avoid the Catholic club all together and join a church that's more open to diversity. Because, clearly, Catholics aren't.

CHLOE FIDDO
Deputy News Editor

LETTERS

Theatre improving students' lives already

I'd like to thank Ms Amanda Ash for her 17 November article "You're trash; the theatre might help." It has sparked what can only be called a revelation in my life by showing me that modern television media—Seinfeld, Hitchcock and the like—have made me nothing more than a "savage beast."

It is even more impressive that you managed to repeat this comment about 60 times in the same article; clearly you are a cultured master of the thesaurus. In fact, your article has given me such an insight into my life that I move the University give you an honorary MD.

Thanks to you, Dr Ash, I have not only found the source for my lack of personal reflection and artistic appreciation, but the prescription for my cure: mimicking wealth, culture and snobbish older couples. It's as if I've now found the relief to that void in my existence. All my life I've been searching for a purpose, and thanks to your inspiring article, I'll have my stained couch and head for the theatre in search of that touch of culture and sophistication that the hypnotic little box obviously can't provide. I'll remove my ass from my Value Village jeans, don a top hat and monocle and proceed with haste to the local theatre house.

MICHAEL GIBSON
Human Ecology II

Some clarifications on petitions and referenda

I have a two minor points to clarify in Ross Prusakowski's opinion article concerning the Students' Union's petition and referendum process (Re "Hill President Letter: Overlord for Life," 22 November).

First, contrary to the implication in his article, before a petition can become a referendum, either 5 per cent or 15 per cent of the student body's signatures are required on that petition. The voters are in no danger of imminent flooding with questions about \$2 beer unless they themselves sign the petitions asking for such referenda. Second, the PSA does not, in fact, provide for direct democracy. Section 98 provides that students can force Students' Council to vote on issues, not that they can force referenda. If the Students' Union wants to silence students and abolish the current referendum system, there's nothing stopping them.

CHRIS JONES
Agriculture, Forestry & Home Ec II

Stephen Harper stands tall and firm, Rozenhart

In his 17 November article, Adam Rozenhart accuses the Opposition leaders of being indecisive ("Opposition indecision: a Christmas gift"). Unfortunately, he missed the mark.

I urge Mr Rozenhart to review the recent history of this Parliament. He'll realize that Stephen Harper

has been consistently opposed to the Liberal culture of corruption. Ever since the testimony of Jean Brault at the Gomery inquiry, which told of cash-stuffed envelopes and activities more suited for late-night television than for the government of Canada, Stephen Harper has been committed to bringing down the Liberal government.

However, as a way of allowing Canadians to enjoy their Christmas holidays while still holding the Liberals to account, Stephen Harper and the other Opposition leaders offered a compromise to Paul Martin, which would have seen an election call in early January for a voting day in mid February. Unfortunately, Paul Martin has seen fit to refuse this compromise, and he has left the Opposition parties with no choice but to force a vote of non-confidence before the Christmas season.

Lastly, I must disagree with Mr Rozenhart's assessment of Canadians' priorities. I feel quite confident that Canadians will vote against the deep-rooted culture of corruption within the Liberal Party whenever the election occurs. I have faith in the Canadian people and their desire for a clean government that doesn't steal taxpayers' dollars.

DENNIS LAURIE
Arts IV

Better things to have in your pants than \$400

It has been said that everybody can be bought, and it appears that Mr Tyler Shapka's price tag is \$400 (Re "Money now better than money later," 17 November). While a cool 400 bones might feel nice to pad your pants, let's take a look at what our province is losing for little personal gain.

The Tory government has aggressively pursued a policy of stealing from the poor and giving to the rich since 1993. There are many examples, but here are a few to scratch your head about: family-impeding VLTs that help fund

corporate tax subsidies and Ralph Klein's golf match in Switzerland. Practically giving away oil to multinational corporations by charging royalties that are, on average, 15 to 20 per cent less than other oil-producing countries like Norway, Iceland and Venezuela; imagine how much spare change the province would have if we actually charged what the oil is worth.

Last, there's always the (pointless?) debate on healthcare. If the Tories truly wanted to do something to improve people's "overall stress and mindset," why wouldn't they take that \$400 and pay people's healthcare premiums instead—saving money on administration and giving poor people a huge lift? Because let's face it: Most middle-to-high income families are having their premiums paid for by private insurance like Blue Cross, meaning that the only people really paying the premiums are those below the poverty line. And while subsidies are available for extremely low incomes, most people don't have things like a return address required to fill out the form, so they just find out when they get to the hospital after being beat up by some tough-guy supplies that they won't have access to treatment.

So I guess your statement "way to go government" is right if you mean to congratulate the Tories for pushing towards a feudal disparity in our communities. And since you're reading the Gateway, I can assume you're in university, so why don't you try educating yourself?

TOPIE DAVIES
Phys Ed III

Who will protect the environment?

On 15 November, Guy Boutillier affirmed that, "Albertans value the environment as much as health and education." As the Conservatives continue to advocate the privatization of healthcare and education,

will the care of the environment likewise have to follow suit? And what will a privately protected environment look like? Ever heard of the tragedy of the Commons?

As the Government has cut the budget for provincial parks by 30 per cent in the last ten years, it's been necessary for private interests such as philanthropist John Poole to intervene in conservation efforts. Poole valued both the environment and education, and once discussed with Lois Hole which of the two was more important. She said education, to which he replied, "You might be right, but at some point the environment takes over. The government is looking after education pretty well, but they're out to lunch on the environment. So we had to do something about it."

I'd say the government is lacking on both these fronts, but at the end of the day, if you don't have a healthy environment, what all life depends upon, all the rest is more or less irrelevant.

The question here is, will it be up to individual efforts, like Poole's, to provide the funds for environmental conservation, or will our government officials do their job—to protect the common good and spend to its people—and choose to spend the oil royalties (that belong to all of Alberta) on conservation efforts, whose importance and need can't be overstated.

CHELSEY SHILLINGTON
Environmental Conservation IV

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to opinion@gateway.alberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous or otherwise harmful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.



Empty promises lead to empty threats

Canadians get mad, but they don't have the backbone to do anything about it



DERREK GREBSKI

Looky, looky children, it appears that yet another federal election is nigh. That's right, the minority Liberal government currently teeters on the brink of destruction, and here you are, worried about essays and the impending Armageddon that is final exams. Where in the sweet hell are your priorities? If you're like me, and that's between you and your astrologer, they're anywhere but focused on the campaign trail, because you're smart enough to understand that it's a completely meaningless exercise.

"But Derrek," the rest of you will at your newspaper, "what about the sponsorship scandal? You know, the millions of misappropriated taxpayer dollars that wound up in private pockets. Liberal support numbers are slumping. Do you hear that? Slumping!" Yeah, I know, and I don't care.

Actually, I do care, but I'm just clever enough to see that it's a waste of my time to expect that Canadians will ever put their money where their collective mouth is. It's become a national hobby to bitch and moan and make all kinds of meaningless threats, only to utterly collapse when it actually comes time to carry through on any of it. Need an example? How handy that I should have a magnificent one right over here.

The NHL lockout. Hoo, boy! Polls conducted across the country and throughout 2004 and 2005 indicated that 49 per cent of Canadian hockey fans didn't miss the game, and that TV viewership of NHL games would drop by 21 per cent once the lockout ended.

One, in particular, found that 25 per cent of roughly 10 000 Canadians asked had lost interest in the league entirely, even after the paperwork had been signed to end the standoff. Numbers like that clearly indicated that the NHL was in deep trouble amongst stalwart Canadian fans once things got rolling again, right? Nah. Stuningly, fans folded like a house of cards, and attendance figures approached 98 per cent of league-wide capacity in the first week of the new season. In fact, the NHL broke its average attendance record for October, and the CBC's *Hockey Night in Canada* saw a viewership increase of more than 60 per cent versus the same period in the fall of 2003.

It's become a national hobby to bitch and moan and make all kinds of meaningless threats, only to utterly collapse when it actually comes time to carry through on any of it.

So, to summarize these boring statistics, the threats of Canadians turned out to be as worthless as a Jamaican Roter when it came time to back them up with action. Hands up—who's surprised? Me neither.

Why, even here in Edmonton, a similar trend is easily visible. I encourage each and every one of you to take a stroll down any major street in this town and ask passers-by for their thoughts on Premier Ralph Klein. If you don't immediately get sluggish for using his name, those whom you ask will almost certainly offer some contrived, jilted trade about how

miserable Klein has made life in Alberta over the last decade or so.

From the word on the street, you'd think that Klein wouldn't stand a chance when it came time for Alberta's population to cast their votes. Yet, in the real world, the guy could keep winning provincial elections for as long as someone was willing to lean his pickled carcass over a podium. In fact, it looks as though he'll retire without ever having been defeated. How about that—that's sick of winning and is just going to leave. Maybe that's been the plan all along for those disgruntled citizens. The very slow-acting plan.

Absolutely no one has any reason to fear the wrath of the Canadian public, including political figures. Sure, sure, people are crawling out of every swamp and refrigerator box to offer poll results indicating reduced Liberal support percentages and stern-faced predictions of big changes in Ottawa, but, as always, those numbers mean absolutely nothing. In fact, you can actually see into the future by simply watching a recording of the 2004 election results while trying to disregard the changes in fashion.

Now, don't mistake this article for a bunch of partisan rhetoric, because I truly don't give a high-altitude shit where your vote lies, or if you vote at all. I am enthusiastically disinterested in politics, and a lot of it has to do with exactly what I've described here.

In this upcoming election, like the NHL lockout, Canadians will happily and naturally follow the same paths they have for their entire lives, and will ignore anything that may happen along the line. Then, in six months, when another few million claims go missing, or Paul Martin kicks a dog on national TV, support percentages will plummet and Liberal officials will sit around and giggle, because they're not afraid of you.

Enjoy the hockey.

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Don't demand religion from secular schools



JOEL FAIRBROTHER

In the 20 November *New York Times*, a headline reads, "University is Accused of Bias: Against Christian Schools." This is a teaching story about an evangelical student in southern California named Cody Young, who's being educated at a Christian university and wants to transfer to a secular one. The problem is one that he, and many other students of faith-based schools, have had: not all of their courses are recognized by secular schools. Mr Young, five other students and some lawyers are now suing the University of California for discrimination.

The thing that separates secular institutions and Christian ones is something traditionally known as "theological science." This is a historical title given to scientific inquiry that doesn't question God, but interprets scientific discoveries based on what is acceptable within the boundaries of the Bible.

By subscribing to the views of theological science, these students are actively rejecting many beliefs in the secular system. In light of this, the question shouldn't be, "Why won't the secular schools recognize theo-

"Christianity can surely exist within a secular school. The problem is that theological science and secular science are fundamentally different. For most Christians today, this isn't a big problem, because they look at science and religion as different, and what we discover in one shouldn't affect the other."

logical science classes?" but, "Why in the hell would they?" I'd like to see a secular student go to a Christian university—if the school would even accept them—and pass, while subscribing to secular views. The reason they wouldn't be able to is the same reason Mr Young can't get credit for all of his classes—a secular stance would be considered inconsistent with the Christian context.

This problem isn't new. One example goes back as far as a contentious issue between Aristotle and Plato. Plato believed that the "good" was a universal thing, and all we had to do to figure out correct actions was to identify that good, and work outward from it. This is the famous theory of the forms. Plato's idea of starting with truth and working outward was just like "theological" education.

Aristotle said this was nonsense. According to him, we had to cultivate and practice virtuous actions to understand a complex goodness. We weren't supposed to start with the truth, but work toward it. Aristotle's ideas were more in line with secular

education.

Gandhi said: "I worship God as Truth only. I have not yet found Him, but I am seeking after Him." He is opening up the same debate as Plato and Aristotle. It shows two distinct fields: one treats God as a fundamental reality to which new ideas must conform; the other treats our observations as reality, to which our idea of God must conform.

Christianity can surely exist within a secular school. The problem is that theological science and secular science are fundamentally different. For most Christians today, this isn't a big problem, because they look at science and religion as different, and what we discover in one shouldn't affect the other.

But the hard-line Christians who subscribe to theological science don't accept this view, which is precisely why someone with an education in theological science shouldn't be granted a secular degree. If you want a secular degree, get the appropriate number of credits in a secular institution, and for God's sake stop whining.



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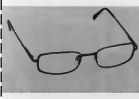
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Global warming our best hope for glory

JAMES
STORRIE

so we can stand to retire those nations. They can come up to our newly available post-tundra farmland and grow bananas, or whatever they're into. And all of those really dry countries, like Afghanistan and Africa? You don't

enormous the support they deserve.

The benefits here are all pretty clear. All it's going to take is some backbone, some gravitas, so to speak; the principle to stand up to short-sighted environmental activism like Kyoto. Fuck Kyoto. I'm talking manifest destiny, here. We zerged this world good and proper, and we should be exploiting this situation to pull ahead in the end-game. We shouldn't be back defensively, playing second-seat to some show-off super-powers—we should be calling our Sea Kings back, filling them with road salt, and homicide-bombing some icebergs.

The possibilities for a warm Canada are endless. With the dissolution of all those sub-tropical border nations, we could turn our foreign aid money to more pressing causes, like outfitting Vancouver and Montreal with floating struts to ensure they "weather" (ha ha) the imminent hypocalypse. The frigid northern wastelands, once only good for producing crazy-named territories and NFB documentaries, could be retrofitted for more delicious things, like avocados. The influx of flood-fleeing refugees would solve our chronic underpopulation issues and enrich our multicultural mosaic.

Honestly, how can our administration not see the glorious future out there, just waiting for its new, Canadian overlords? I mean, I'm not often given to advocating treason, but sometimes really ought to go overthrow the government.

All it's going to take is some backbone, some gravitas, so to speak; the principle to stand up to short-sighted environmental activism like Kyoto. Fuck Kyoto. I'm talking manifest destiny, here.

think those could use some irrigation?

I've played Civilization. Most of you have too, if you aren't culture-hating elitist philistines. So, as we all know, human progress is zero sum. Even if you're doing fine, you're competing. In the grand scheme of things, a little universal water-cycle tampering is healthy, really. Destroying the economies of the world's powerhouse with hurricanes (good morning, America) and floods (I'm looking at you, China) will save us from a future of amoral dystopias while catapulting Canada to the world's forefront, where we can finally give important concerns like social justice and the

Critical thinking can help keep your pants up

ANDREW
TEAL

Another agonizingly common fallacy follows the form, "this one time I saw this person who did this thing, therefore all people in the group that person belongs to are bad." This kind of thinking is like standing in the middle of the freeway of folly—it's only a matter of time until the three-ton cargo truck with "Ass" emblazoned on its grill bears down on you.

So here's my inductive conclusion, which I submit for your review: the key to avoiding these incidents of social depanting is learning the art of critical thinking. It's a subject occasionally modelled, but rarely talked about. Critical thinking isn't just a vague term, but a well thought-out discipline of training oneself to be responsible in coming to conclusions or defending a viewpoint. This discipline helps to be able to tell the difference between inductive reasoning (A + B has always equalled C in the past, and is likely to do so again) and deductive reasoning (A + B necessarily equals C).

Sometimes, all we need is to break down our conclusions or arguments into their respective parts, then to

test them to see if they actually make sense, before making them public. Are you thinking that it's a good idea to make generalized claims about the characteristics of a group of people based on the actions of a few individuals? Critical thinking can warn you that this is a step off the cliff of asinine thinking. Have you decided to loudly assert your viewpoint based on an in-depth examination you came across in *Reader's Digest*? Applying the principles of critical thinking would probably help you realize that making exclusive claims based on such limited evidence is perhaps not the best way to win the intellectual respect of your peers.

It's my sincere hope that this short article will encourage people to read more about the practice of critical thinking and avoid those ego-crushing moments of humiliation, or even worse, those times when you don't even realize you've just made a complete fool of yourself. And remember, if all else fails, it's better to say nothing and be thought of as dumb than to open your mouth and remove all doubt.

Orwellian sort of way, but t-shirts? Yes, that's what they fought for: capitalism.

That's not to say every person who wears one of these shirts, pins, cock rings or whatever else his face is on, is ignorant about his life. But if I see another pre-teen—who wasn't even a fetus when the guy was alive—buy a *Ché* paraphernalia because it matches the colour of their over-priced and under-lengthened mini skirts, I'm going to vomit on it.

So to all you morons, get in the sack, and prepare to feel pain, *Guevara* style.

RAMIN OSTAD

The *Burlep Sack* is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.



I'm getting really tired of these as-hats who wear *Ché* Guevara t-shirts with designer jeans. Since you retards seem to be uninformed, I'll help you out. That t-shirt is supposed to represent opposition to social inequality, and concern for migrant workers; whereas your pants were probably made by them. *Ché* isn't supposed to be a fashion statement; it's a political one.

Wearing what seems to be the only picture this guy ever took on a t-shirt that costs \$30 seems a little backwards. The fact is, Marxist revolutionaries were never fans of having their faces on commercial products. Maybe posters, in an

Whether or not A is actually a premise, or is in itself a debatable conclusion, is rarely considered by the author.



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Your skin colour matters—try loving the one you have



IAN
KETEKU

When the disputed king of pop, Michael Jackson, claimed in 1991 that, "It doesn't matter if you're black or white," most people agreed. Some, however, were able to identify the hypocrisy in his lyrics, because he had already made a decision on which skin colour he preferred. But what might be still more hypocritical is our disdain for Michael's choice, considering how common the alteration of one's skin colour has become. This happens in many global communities, and across many different ages, but a certain irony arises when the skin colour trends of whites in North America and blacks in West Africa are compared.

In the United States and Canada, businesses such as Fabutan and Fake 'n' Bake have become household names. The number of stores popping up prove how successful this business has become, and how deep-seated the desire to alter one's skin colour is. We don't need to look far for examples: in the heart of our campus (RUB mall) there's a Maximum Tanning salon, and even in Lister Hall there's a tanning bed.

There are many reasons why white North Americans tan: to conceal blemishes, to appear affluent, to feel good or to capitalize on the recent infatuation with dark skin. But it hasn't always been so. During the Elizabethan era, fair skin was the trademark of nobility, although today it's the trademark of not getting out much. It's as though pale skin went out of style with covered wagons.

Inversely, today in West Africa and other parts of the world, many people, particularly women, are participating in a trend known as skin bleaching. By applying a lotion that contains

hydroquinone, a bleaching solution, they're able to artificially lighten their skin. The movement is said to derive from when British and French colonialists occupied Africa. They were typically wealthy and powerful, and as a result, lighter skin is still seen in many parts of the world as a status symbol of affluence and respect. Even in the United States during the times of slavery, lighter-skinned slaves were given jobs inside the house, while darker slaves were given hard labour outdoors.

These attempts to change skin colour carry some very serious health risks. Like tanning, which damages skin tone, creates wrinkles and blemishes, and can lead to cancer, skin bleaching is also very hazardous, and can result in many damaging skin diseases. The seriousness of these consequences has forced the governments of Kenya, Uganda and soon Nigeria to ban the sale of many skin-bleaching products.

Given how common artificial changes to skin colour are, and how well-publicized their consequences, it's ironic that racism still exists in a world where light-skinned people want to be dark, and dark-skinned people want to be light. Although bleaching and tanning aren't done to be more like people of the opposite colour, but to promote an image of health, wealth and leisure, it seems as though both factions are moving toward the same colour of skin—beige.

The appeal of a middling colour is most apparent in pop culture—our modern elite. Halle Berry and Beyoncé are neither too black, nor too white. Britney Spears and Hilary Duff are neither too pale, nor too dark. It's difficult to say to what extent these people are the product of larger cultural forces, or themselves drive these trends through their appearance.

Perhaps, instead of fretting about the colour of our skins, we should ignore the hypocrisy of the King of Pop's proclamation and apply it to our own lives. Perhaps Michael was on the right track when he proclaimed that colour shouldn't be a factor in how we treat others. Just enjoy the skin you're in.

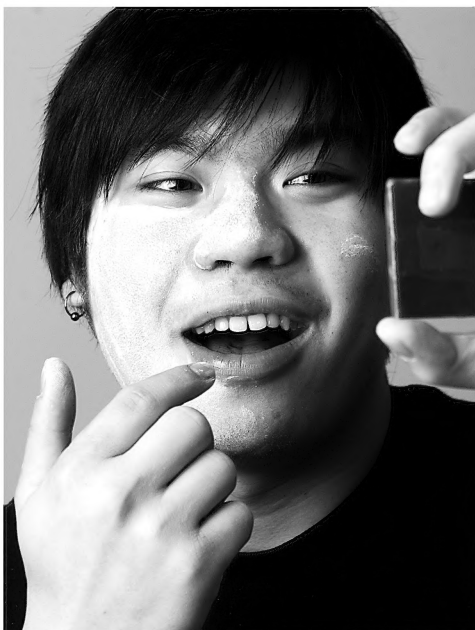


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: TARA STEIGLITZ

HOW DO I LOOK? Dark people bleach, and light people tan. Ian Keteku explores the issue.



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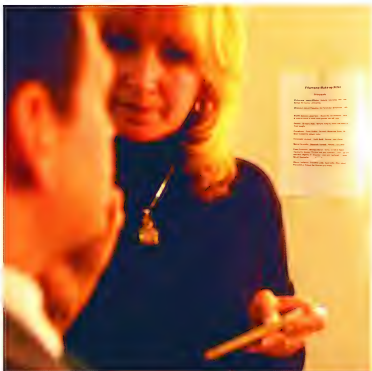
During the year-long departure from the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, the Edmonton Opera mounted their performances in such alternative venues, from the conventional Citadel Theatre to the ultra-unconventional The Paramount on Jasper, where bratwurst, sauerkraut and beer were served to accompany their production of the cabaret-style *Weill in Weimar 1929*. However, now that the centennial renovations at the Jubilee Auditorium are complete, they can finally return to their old stomping ground. Fittingly, the first opera to be performed in their newly renovated home is *Filumena*. It tells the story of Filumena Lassandro, a young Italian immigrant to the Crownsnest Pass region of Alberta, who became the last woman to be hanged in Alberta.

During the latest night of dressed rehearsal, the machinery of make-believe was out in full force. Performers were lining up to have their makeup done and wigs adjusted, costumers were busy making final adjustments, while the leads cloistered themselves in the fitting rooms, warming up their vocal chords for the impending performance. But the backstage chaos easily melted away the moment the performers set on stage. The lights were synchronized, the stage was set, and they were ready for their cue.

Photo cont next page



Photos and words by Iris Tse



SOCIAL
INTERCOURSE

Filumena

Showtimes vary
Jubilee Auditorium
www.edmontonopera.com

It's good to intersperse those head-banging rock shows with a few classy forms of entertainment now and again, so rather than partying it up this Saturday, perhaps you should tone things down with the Edmonton Opera's latest project, *Filumena*.

The production is based on the life story of Filumena Lassandro, the last woman to be hanged in Alberta. Set in the early 1900s near Crownstern Pass, the tale unfolds as Filumena engages in an illegal bootlegging scheme. Her plans eventually fail to evolve as expected, ultimately causing murders to ensue, disorder to take over and Filumena to hang for her actions.

With a script written by Canadian playwright John Murrell and a musical score written by Juno-nominee John Estacio, *Filumena* is bound to be an engaging take on Alberta history.

Hipster Twister

Tuesdays at 9pm
Wunderbar

If you feel as though there aren't enough exciting things to do around this flat prairie city of ours, you can always return to your fun-loving childhood roots by participating in one of the biggest games of Twister to ever grace our planet.

Founded by various U of A alumni and students, Hipster Twister involves competing with fellow friends and Twister fanatics in a battle of balance and endurance. Various mats are laid out across the floor, and winners from each of those rounds then prepare to showdown for an awesome prize.

And let's not forget that, while the entire Twister game is going on, rad tunes will be played and equally rad drink specials—sure to improve your ability stay balanced—will be offered.

Whether you're an avid Twister fan or you're looking for an interesting change in your social life, pop by Wunderbar Tuesday evenings and check out Hipster Twister.



Wintersleep

with *The Ladies and Gentlemen*
Saturday, 26 November at 8pm
Victory Lounge

This year, Edmonton's music scene has been hotter than Emily Haines flashing her underwear. Not only have we been able to scoop up some of the biggest names in international music, but we've also managed to round up a number of nationally acclaimed acts. So why not continue the trend, right?

This Saturday the Victory Lounge is welcoming the Halifax-based quartet Wintersleep to our wonderful city. Wintersleep's energetic rock songs are lightly dipped in feathery acoustics, producing a sound so invigorating that the whole of Canada will soon be up and dancing.

And since Wintersleep has opened for a number of prominent musical groups like Sam Roberts and Broken Social Scene, their performance is more than likely to be a worthwhile affair. Head on down to Victory Lounge this weekend and take advantage of Edmonton's music scene while it's still sizzling.

AMANDA ASH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Sci-fi starlet Charlize Theron

The star of *Aeon Flux* talks with the Gateway about acting, movies, and being a woman in Hollywood

Film preview: *Aeon Flux*

Directed by Kathryn Kusama
Starring Charlize Theron, Francis McDormand,
Johnny Lee Miller and Amelia Warner
Opens Friday, 2 December

AMANDA ASH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Unfortunately, instead of being judged on ability and talent, many Hollywood actresses are idolized only as silver screen eye-candy, and with cosmetic surgeries and retouching fashions being all the hype of the 21st century, the pressure is on for female stars to look great. However, when you look beneath the façade of dazzling bleached-white smiles and expensive gowns, there's really a whole whack of talent lying ignored and underappreciated.

According to actress Charlize Theron, becoming an established leading lady in Hollywood doesn't happen overnight. Like Theron, you may have a solid ten years of acting experience on your side, but in the end, having your talents recognized over your appearance ultimately comes down to luck. With an Oscar under her belt from last year's *Monster* and her new movie *Aeon Flux* ready to hit theatres, Theron attributes her recent success to her physically and mentally demanding lead role in *Monster*, a film that provided her with the chance to truly strut her stuff.

"[The movie] isn't about being blindsided or just sitting back and thinking everything is fine, but rather taking a stance and asking questions about what your government is doing ... Aeon is that quintessential character who stands up against the government and doesn't give in, doesn't live in a gilded cage, and doesn't stay quiet."

CHARLIZE THERON

"When I got the role in *Monster*, I realized that you can have acting experience but it doesn't really mean anything until somebody actually gives you the opportunity to go explore and actually use your skills," explains Theron. "It really depends on the opportunities that are given to you, the people who take a chance on you and the people who see that possibility in you as an actor. *Monster* changed my career probably forever, but it wouldn't have been this way unless I had been given an initial chance."

Monster has opened up a world of possibilities for Theron, and has ultimately led to yet another difficult lead role in *Aeon Flux*, a highly anticipated film adaptation of Peter Chung's futuristic MTV anime series. Gaining weight and drastically changing appearances isn't a simple task, but by pulling it off in *Monster*, Theron has proved how capable she is of playing a physically tough female hero like Aeon, a role that calls for heavy combat training and intense acrobatic maneuvers. However, for Theron, manipulating and pushing her body to its limits isn't only a part of the job description, but also a very personal undertaking.

"It's challenging [to manipulate my body], but it's a challenge I like," asserts Theron. "I mean, a huge part of this film was the physical aspect, and I didn't just want to go to the gym and change my body to look a certain way—I also wanted to go and learn some skills. What happened



to my body was really secondary to the learning I became a gymnast on this film, which was something I had never done before, even though I have a very athletic background. I think if I was just in a gym lifting weights, I would have been miserable."

Despite the importance of working to match the incredible physical strength and endurance of Aeon, Theron also appreciates the importance of an actor connecting mentally with a character she is about to embody. To Theron, Aeon's down-to-earth personality is a trait which she parallels—an insight that has allowed her to bring herself in tune with Aeon's emotional responses.

"[Aeon] is really edgy and different—a very different kind of a female superhero," Theron says. "At the end of the day, I just want to do something that still has at its core some form of a reality and Aeon was very real to me. She is very much a woman, and she is conflicted the same way I think a lot of women are. Even though the story takes place 400 years in the future and her circumstances are very different, at the core, she's very smart and intelligent."

And Theron herself has become very much attached to her character, she sees Aeon and the film as more than simply a sci-fi movie. By working under the guiding vigil of female director Kathryn Kusama (*Girl Fight*), Aeon Flux has turned out not only as a film about a future hero battling a ruthless government, but also about a strong and independent female character standing up for freedom in the face of injustice.

"[The movie] isn't about being blindsided or just sitting back and thinking everything is fine, but rather taking a stance and asking questions about what your government is doing," Theron relates with an air of innate feminine authority.

"That's really what my character Aeon does."

Aeon is that quintessential character who stands up against the government and doesn't give in, doesn't live in a gilded cage, and doesn't stay quiet. She's not okay with it. She believes in the freedom of speech and individual rights, and she fights for them."

While Theron might not have the final say in how a film will look or how it will show at the box office come opening weekend, she does have control over the performance she gives each time the camera starts rolling. Whether or not critics and reviewers praise her role as Aeon Flux, Theron is content with her performance and is confident that Aeon, along with the rest of the movie, will do justice to the short-lived TV show—at least as much as is humanly possible.

"I think a lot of people who are fans of the anime will understand [the film version]," Theron promises. "I mean, if you know the anime, you can understand that it's pretty much impossible to double it exactly in the film. It's a cartoon, and I'm not a cartoon, and I cannot run around in a G-string and do the splits, because Paramount wouldn't be able to release the film. Regardless, I still really feel that people who do love the show won't be disappointed."



D Rangers make grade-A country—just don't ask CMT

Despite nation-wide appeal, Winnipeg ensemble The D Rangers still need to sell some country fans on their take on bluegrass rock

The D Rangers

With *Buttless Chaps* and *The Uncas*
Friday, 25 November at 8pm
Sideroad Café

JAKE TROUGHTON
Senior News Editor

You'll have to forgive The D Rangers if they aren't quite themselves at tomorrow's show: the Winnipeg-based bluegrass/roots band has recently lost a loved one.

The band's beloved one-ton Chevy camper van broke down for good outside of Medicine Hat earlier this week, the latest in a long string of vehicular troubles.

"But this last one, we have to say, it owed us nothing," says lead vocalist Jaxon Haldane, who also plays the banjo and, on occasion, the saw. "We bought this van for \$400 in Airdrie about two and a half years ago. I did the math, and it was like 40 000km that the thing had done for \$400, so that's like a penny a kilometer.

But while he confesses to certain tender feelings for the departed vehicle, Haldane says losing it was much easier than some of the previous adventures, such as pushing a van up a snowy mountain, an incident detailed in their song "Three Barriers."

"It was a really great van, and we loved it very much, but the van going down the highway was a very atypical D Ranger breakdown situation, it wasn't stressful, really," he says. "I've compared it to losing a loved one who's been sick for a long time. It's like, 'Oh, you're in a better place.'"

That wasn't the only atypical incident

on the band's current tour, which isn't even a week old; on Monday, they happened to be in the right place at the right time and ended up participating in the shooting of Corb Lund's new video.

"Someday we'll probably end up making a real traditional bluegrass album that's right in that vein, very honest and authentic. But for now there's too much piss and vinegar, so whatever; we're not gonna suppress that."

JAXON HALDANE, THE D RANGERS

"That was a pretty odd thing to do on a day off on tour. We were all dressed up in 1800s period costumes, and hung out and waited for them to say 'roll,'" says Haldane. "We were just extras; mostly, we were just sitting around and drinking. We come by that pretty honestly, so I think we delivered a pretty authentic performance.

"It was good fortune for us, because CMT won't take the videos we've made, so we've got to get in the back door somehow."

It's no surprise that CMT would pass on The D Rangers; for a station that passes over mainstream bluegrass, The Rangers must be downright terrify-



ing. They're all-acoustic and—with the exception of the aforementioned saw—stick to your basic bluegrass instruments, but with a sound that's been described as "mutant bluegrass," they bring an energy and edge rarely heard on any commercial music station, let alone pop-country stations.

They can even have trouble getting into bluegrass festivals, although, paradoxically, Haldane says the more traditional the music a bluegrass crowd is seeking, the more likely they seem to be to latch onto The D Rangers, which he attributes to a similarity in spirit, if not entirely in sound.

"If you come wanting to see the real

gritty Bill Monroe, Hatt and Scruggs kind of stuff, we're not going to play the music like that, but I think there'll be something about our show that'll appeal to you," he says.

"Bill Monroe, Hank Williams and Bob Wills were the original influences, directly, on the band. We always wanted to be edgy like Hank and Bill, and always be experimental and somewhat avant garde like Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys were at their height. Monroe was the original punk rocker in many senses, musically... He reaved the music of his time up more than a lot of the music that I thought was so extraordinarily edgy as a teenager."

So despite the fast-paced rock feel to a lot of their music, one could argue that The D Rangers—rather than the purveyors of "adult-contemporary music that they call bluegrass these days," as Haldane says—are the natural heirs to the heritage of bluegrass.

"I think a lot of bluegrass people would disagree with that, but we won't," Haldane laughs. "We're just sort of striving for that. Someday we'll probably end up making a real traditional bluegrass album that's right in that vein, very honest and authentic. But for now there's too much piss and vinegar, so whatever; we're not gonna suppress that."



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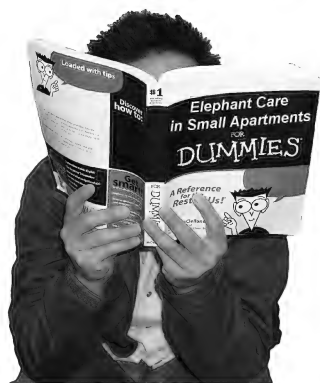
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Pickpocket for French film fans only

Pickpocket

Starring Martin La Salle, Jean P  legri and Marika Green
Directed by Robert Bresson
November 25-28 at 7pm
Metro Cinema

TONY SANTIN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Leaving the world of crime can be difficult at best. As Al Pacino's character in *The Godfather* put it: "Every time I try to get out, they keep pullin' me back in!" And in the case of Michel, main character from Robert Bresson's 1957 film *Pickpocket*, this couldn't be any truer.

Michel (Martin La Salle) is a Paris youth barely scraping out an existence when, on a day at the horse races, he sees an opportunity to lift a few francs from a recent winner's purse. He's successful, but has now gained a taste for crime. For all his theft, however, Michel is shadowed by an inspector from the Paris police department (Jean P  legri), a man who confronts him about his crimes but cannot arrest Michel on suspicion alone. As Michel gets drawn further into the world of pickpocketing he becomes involved with Jeanne (Marika Green), a young woman who lives next to his deceased mother's apartment. Despite this positive new relationship, his past actions are catching up with him, and the inspector tries to bring him into the police for questioning. Warned early by Jeanne, Michel sees that his future is in jeopardy and leaves town to try to start anew.

From the very start, *Pickpocket* unfolds in a Camus-esque, existentialist style. The characters are very distant from each other and little is revealed about their character; they simply exist and act within the world in which they are cast.

Although Michel is supposed to be the film's "good guy," he doesn't provoke much sympathy from the viewer. Not only does he appear to be vastly unable to do anything about his compulsive thievery, he also appears to be completely unwilling to try to stop it.

Nowhere is this more apparent than with the character of Michel. He is too emotionally weak to stop himself from picking pockets and it shows; he seldom has any expression other than that of despair. Dialogue tends to be short and to the point, except for when more philosophical issues are brought up, such as during the inspector's initial confrontation.

Indeed some of these points are very typical of French film from the

era, especially when compared to Jean-Luc Godard's New Wave films from the same time. But, to someone unfamiliar with the genre, *Pickpocket* makes for a strange movie experience. Although Michel is supposed to be the film's "good guy," he doesn't provoke much sympathy from the viewer. Not only does he appear to be vastly unable to do anything about his compulsive thievery, he also appears to be completely unwilling to try to stop it. He started, therefore he continues. Contact between the characters is muted at most, and sometimes even the most trivial interaction can cause a side character to be suddenly involved in the main story.

The one main aspect of *Pickpocket* that can be appreciated by any viewer, however, is the skillful choreography used to make the pickpocketing routines look plausible, especially given that many of the snatches would seem quite impossible to pull off. One particular scene has Michel and his accomplices fleeing the passengers of a train out of their personal effects. Wallets, watches, money clips—they're all moved from victim to perpetrator with an amazing ease that would leave Oliver Twist's head spinning.

However, such fun scenes alone won't redeem this film for the casual viewer. The underdeveloped characters and their stilted, short dialogue make this film too awkward of an experience for an ordinary viewer. Watch you're wallet carefully; it's best to leave the tickets to this one to the fans of French cinema.

The latest release from the British rock band Idlewild, *Warnings/Promises*, offers a wide range of sounds—unfortunately for the group, however, not all are pleasant.

The lyrics are well crafted and have a poetic feel, which does manage to work most of the time. Every so often, however, their words drift from original songwriting and come off as trying too hard to sound meaningful, making parts of songs more nauseating than intelligent.

As for the wide range of sounds, the songs may have instrumental elements that at first keep them interesting, but when put together they all have a similar sound. If you don't pay attention,

the disc will be over without knowing you've listened to all the songs.

However, the only track that's really problematic is "I Want a Warning," which makes constant use of grinding electric guitars to the point where it's the only thing you're able to hear, as it all but drowns out every other element in the song.

Warnings/Promises contains pop, rock and mellow tunes, which make for a mostly enjoyable experience, but be wary of the elements that make Idlewild's tracks fluctuate in their awesomeness. With more change-ups between songs and reigning in their guitars, Idlewild's next album is sure to top their latest release.



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DANA KOMPERDO
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Ten years later and many pounds



AAAAWWKWARD! When it looks uncomfortable to just be in the film, chances are watching it won't be much better.

Just Friends just barely viewable

Reynold's latest film follows a successful formula, but sticks to close to the rules

Just Friends

Directed by Roger Kumble
Starring Ryan Reynolds, Amy Smart,
Anna Farris, Chris Klein and
Mike Carpenter
Opens 23 November

EDMON RUTEA
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Like most male-driven romantic comedies of the past decade, *Just Friends* follows the same basic formula adhered to by previous films in the genre: a male protagonist (during his high-school years, of course) seeks romantic relations with the girl of his dreams. He then proceeds to embarrass himself in front of the girl while on an important date, never to make another attempt for the girl's attention and affection until a chance encounter years later that forces him to do battle with another alpha male—one with seedy intentions!

Sure, it sounds cheesy, but the formula can work, with films like *There's Something About Mary* as proof. Unfortunately, *Just Friends* sticks to this romantic recipe too closely, resulting in a film that, while funny, tastes more than a bit off.

Just Friends begins with a flashback that takes you about ten years into the past. It's 1995 and the audience is introduced to Chris (Ryan Reynolds), an overweight, retainer-wearing teenager who has a massive crush on his best friend: the hottest girl in school, Jamie Palomino (Amy Smart). In hope of being more than "just friends" with Jamie, Chris writes his true feelings for her in her yearbook. When the books end up being switched, Chris is faced with the whole school knowing his secret—and the double shame of having Jamie relegate Chris to merely a platonic friend. Chris then makes a vow to never again return to his small town of Trenton, New Jersey.

Ten years later and many pounds

less, Chris is now a successful LA music producer and has dated and hung out with the hottest celebrities and popstars. Despite being materially satisfied, his string of meaningless relationships have left him wanting Jamie.

Even though Chris is the hopeless-romantic underdog that the audience should be rooting for, audiences may later come to loathe him because of his personality—a man who seems bitter and angry throughout almost the entire film. Any romantic figure worth their salt needs flaws, but those of Reynold's character prevent him from capturing the sympathy of the audience.

Fortunately, while on a business trip escorting a psychotic, sex-crazed Ashlee Simpson-esque popstar named Samantha (Anna Farris) for his company's record label, a microwave mishap grounds his plane near his hometown. Chris uses the chance opportunity to try to redeem himself and win the affections of his high-school dream girl.

Unfortunately, despite a relatively imaginative plot given the formula it was working within and memorable characters to go with it, the casting of

Just Friends lacked the chemistry seen in most any other romantic comedy. Reynolds and Smart not only lack the on-screen spark needed to make a romantic comedy actually romantic, but their characters are also incredibly unlikeable. Even though Chris is the hopeless-romantic underdog that the audience should be rooting for, audiences may later come to loathe him because of his personality—a man who seems bitter and angry throughout almost the entire film. Any romantic figure worth their salt needs flaws, but those of Reynold's character prevent him from capturing the sympathy of the audience. When put next to characters of similar films such as Adam Sandler's Robbie in *The Wedding Singer* or Owen Wilson's John from *Wedding Crashers*, Chris pales in comparison.

Jamie also lacks the innocence that a characteristic of the female lead roles seen in other romantic comedies of this nature. Instead of slowly learning of Chris's flaws in buildup to the climax, Jamie finds out about his shortcomings early on. This odd feature takes away the cinematic magic of seeing her character slowly unravel the truth of her friend's past later in the film, which is usually one of the more critical scenes in youth-oriented romantic comedies.

Just Friends does manage to have some funny moments—Samantha being accidentally stung by a wasp and the comical behavior of Chris' completely clueless mother are highlights—and while these moments might come less often than the audience might like, they do serve to redeem the movie's sometimes slow pacing.

Just Friends proves itself to be just another light comedy, but one that's still somewhat fun to watch. Compared to other films in the genre, however, *Just Friends* is a movie you might want to see, but one you definitely won't fall in love with.



I Am Cuba a dramatic revolution

1964 film about Cuban revolution highlights the individual human struggle

I Am Cuba
Directed by Mikhail Kalozov
25-28 December at 8:30pm
Metro Cinema

JULIA DAVIS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

I Am Cuba, a 1964 film about the harshness of Cuban life and the build-up to the revolution, is a realistic and often harrowing portrayal of Cuban life during the era of Batista control of the island. This period of Cuban history is represented using five different situations, and while they're all fictional accounts, they're all intimate portrayals of what very likely occurred in one form or another during the conflict.

The first episode features Maria, a young Cuban woman who makes her living spending the evening with American men. When a man who spends the night with her is trying to escape the slum the following morning, he is overwhelmed with hoards of poor asking for money. At this point, the film's narrator comments on the scene, saying, "Look! I am Cuba. For you, I am the casino, the bar, hotels and brothels. But the hands of these children and old people are also me."

The following four scenes tell different stories that illustrate the personal, political and economic factors that are faced by the Cuban poor. The second scene in the film shows an impoverished Cuban farmer who has lost his home and crops, his life left in ruins after the owner of the land sells the property. Another features students protesting a political film screening at a drive-in theatre when they notice a newspaper that claims Fidel Castro

has died. They know that this isn't true, however, and that he's organizing supporters in the mountains. The boys start to protest against the Batista authorities with many of their friends being killed in the process.

The film dramatically shows what Cuba would have been like for many different types of local people before, during and after the revolution. Despite—or possibly because of—the power of this film, *I Am Cuba* was criticized by Cuban authorities, who said it was counterrevolutionary, being called such things as "I Am NOT Cuba" instead.

The fourth scene is a short clip of the government army approaching and questioning Castro's supporters in the mountains. The unwavering support that these men hold for Castro, even with guns in their faces, make it a powerful, albeit short, scene.

The final situation displayed in the film is one of a family living peacefully

in the mountains. A stranger bearing arms comes to them, speaks of wanting peace and leaves. Almost immediately the mountains are under attack from the sky and the family is forced to run for cover. They are separated, and the bombs kill one of the children. The father leaves his wife and remaining kids to join the ranks of Castro's supporters in the wilderness. They fight and sing in revolution for Cuba.

The production of *I Am Cuba* is just as powerful as its message. There are many points of interest in the filming of the scenes, including the unbelievable contrast in the black and white depiction of Cuba. The crisp sounds used—such as the sharp crack of gunshot and the sound of a machete slicing through sugar cane during the harvest—combined with the lack of background music and even dialogue in many scenes help in building the mood and showing this part of Cuba's history in an incredibly powerful way.

The film dramatically shows what Cuba would have been like for many different types of local people before, during and after the revolution. Despite—or possibly because of—the power of this film, *I Am Cuba* was criticized and ridiculed by Cuban authorities, who said it was counterrevolutionary, being called such things as "I Am NOT Cuba" instead. This isn't surprising upon viewing this film, because of total control over the country that the Cuban dictatorship would be trying to maintain. This film about revolution's powerful message amidst a tumultuous political environment—and the fact it was rejected by the very country it depicts—makes *I Am Cuba* a revolution in itself.

Of all the stand-up comedians that have graced the stage of comedy clubs around the world, few have managed to elevate ranting about topics ranging from politics to drugs and even philosophy up to an art form in the way that Bill Hicks did.

Salvation, one of a recent string of posthumous releases, covers some of Hicks' best known material. From his theories regarding the assassination of JFK, to the vanity of Los Angeles, to why he's without a girlfriend, no topic is safe from becoming part of his tirade against the contradictions and hypocrisies of the modern world.

It's also amazing to see how relevant

his material remains even though it's been over a decade since his last performance. His material came at a time when there was a Republican president named Bush in the White House and there was a war in Iraq. Sometimes, the more things change, the more they stay the same—and Hicks shows that the same goes for the comedic elements of it, too.

Although nearly all of the material offered here has already been covered in previous collections such as *Arizona Bitch*, for the uninitiated Bill Hicks listener, *Salvation* makes for an excellent starting point, one loaded with the material that helped to make him a comedic icon.



World's worst mixtape or a nostalgic trip back to junior high school dances?

We're actually aiming for the world's worst mixtape. However, there's no point in making a mixtape if we're not going to play it; the point of making the world's worst mixtape is that it's entirely unpleasant to listen to in its entirety. So, instead of bickering amongst ourselves or imitating another lengthy, gender-discriminating mixtape contest, we've decided to let the campus decide which of us do you want to see suffering through these 20 songs, or basically, which of us you hate the most.

For \$2 per ballot, the editor of your choice, or "winner," will be rewarded with the task of wandering around the campus, carrying a boombox playing all 20 songs. You are welcomed to point, snicker, and take embarrassing pictures as the editor walks past you. Sweet, huh? We're not doing this just to prove our ability to make capricious mixtapes. Part of the proceeds will go towards Gateway professional development and the rest will go to the Campus Food Bank.

So come up to the Gateway office and submit your ballot and \$2. Contest closes on 30 November.



- Daniel Kaszor
- David Berry
- Jake Troughton
- Chloé Fedio
- Tim Peppin
- Mike Larocque
- Chris O'Leary
- Matt Frehner
- Iris Tse

1. Goodbye Earl – The Dixie Chicks
2. My Humps – Black Eyed Peas
3. Lucky – Britney Spears
4. Will2K – Will Smith
5. Hamster Dance – Hampton & The Hamsters
6. Macarena – Los Del Rio
7. I Wanna Sex You Up – Color Me Badd
8. Always Be My Baby – Mariah Carey
9. Sometimes When We Touch – Barry Manilow
10. The Thing Song – Sings
11. My Last Name – Dierks Bentley
12. Have You Forgotten – Darryl Worley
13. Who Let the Dogs Out – Baha Men
14. Tub Thumper – Chumbawamba
15. We Like to Party – Vengaboys
16. My Heart Will Go On – Celine Dion
17. Rollin' – Limp Bizkit
18. www.nevergetoveryou.com – Prozzak
19. Cotton Eyed Joe – Rednex
20. Rico Suave – Gerardo

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TONY SANTIN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

SPORTS

sports@gatewayalberta.ca • Thursday, 24 November, 2005

Injured Bears hoop star likely out for the season

An Anterior Cruciate Ligament injury appears to have come back to rob the Bears' Phil Sudol of his fifth and final year of CIS eligibility

PAUL OWEN
Sports Staff

For fifth-year Golden Bear post Phil Sudol, a tear in his ACL suffered two seasons ago has apparently torn short his promising CIS career.

The former All-Canadian and national champion first suffered the tear at the end of the 2003/04 season and missed those playoffs and spent the first half of last season recovering. Sudol returned to help lead the Bears to a strong second-half finish and a spot in the national tournament in Halifax, while picking up another conference all-star nod. But, after tweaking his knee again in early exhibition play this season, Sudol's knee has once again derailed his season, the last of his CIS career.

"Personally, these last three years have been hell for me. I've been playing for a month and a half without an ACL, and it hasn't been fun. I've been having problems with it until it pretty much went dead and I had to get it fully assessed again. [That's when we] realized it wasn't there," said Sudol. "If I was to play without an ACL, I'd have to play for a while, then take some time off; it just wouldn't work. It wouldn't be fair to the team or to myself. I wouldn't be playing the way I want to, and also, I don't want to screw up my future. I want to be able to do things when I'm older, so I'm looking ahead as well."

Sudol—whose knees have been swelling up after every game—did not play in the second Bears game against Calgary on 12 November, nor on road trips to Arizona State and Simon Fraser, but visited experts in both Arizona and Vancouver while there.

"Personally, these last three years have been hell for me. I've been playing for a month and a half without an ACL, and it hasn't been fun. I've been having problems with it until it pretty much went dead and I had to get it fully assessed again. [That's when we] realized it wasn't there."

**PHIL SUDOL
BEARS POWER-FORWARD
ON HIS KNEE PROBLEMS**

"Phil was examined by an Arizona State doctor, and he said the ACL is gone, there's no ACL. He was examined by a physiotherapist in Vancouver and she said there's no ACL, it's gone. It looks like his year's done," said Bears basketball head coach Don Horwood.

Sudol does have the option of applying for the compassion clause—which allows years of eligibility to be restored on a case-by-case basis—an avenue he hopes will allow him to play next year, citing Whit Hornsberger's injury and subsequent use of it last year as precedent. However, Sudol is five games into his season, and it may be too late for a ruling in his favour.

"We're in a situation right now where, if he has an operation, he'll be done for this season

and whether or not he'll get this year's eligibility back is a question mark," said Bears assistant coach Murray Scambler. "For an Edmonton kid who was a provincial champion three years in a row when he came to our program, became a national champion his first year here and has been an All-Canadian his second and third years here, he's missed the better part of two full years as a university basketball player; for him, it's just a crime."

Even if he were to receive the extra year of eligibility, there is still the question of whether or not the local boy would want to return. He's set to graduate with an engineering degree at the end of this year.

"Right now I'm just considering [coming back] as an option if I had it," he said. "It'd be nice to have it, and it depends on how I'm feeling after the surgery. It's too far down the road to say right now."

While Sudol's veteran presence will be missed—his departure leaves only Gavin Fedorak from the 2001/02 national champion ship squad—the Bears are not going to wait around hoping that he can make another late season comeback.

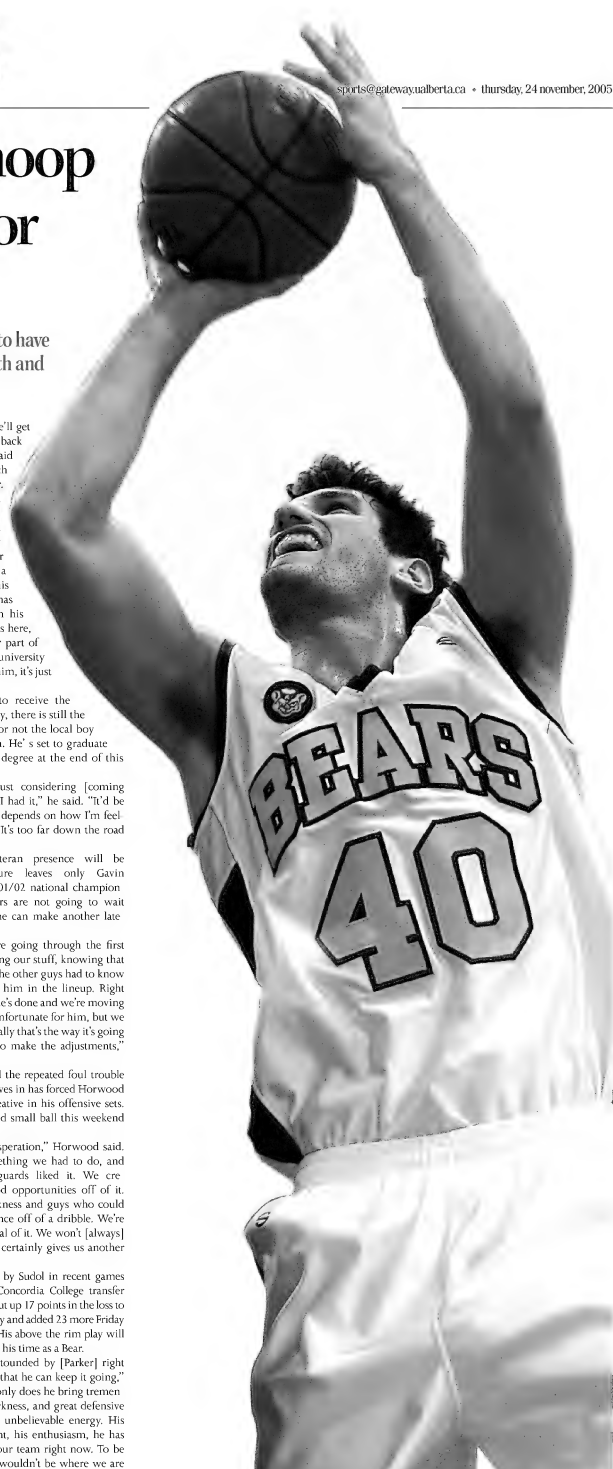
"Last year, we were going through the first half of the year running our stuff, knowing that when he came back, the other guys had to know how to operate with him in the lineup. Right now, our thinking is he's done and we're moving on without him. It's unfortunate for him, but we just realized that basically that's the way it's going to be, and we have to make the adjustments," said Horwood.

Sudol's absence and the repeated foul trouble his posts find themselves in has forced Horwood to be a little more creative in his offensive sets. For instance, he played small ball this weekend with five guards.

"It was born of desperation," Horwood said. "It was born of something we had to do, and obviously our five guards liked it. We created some really good opportunities off of it. We've got good quickness and guys who could create out of the offence off of a dribble. We're excited by the potential of it. We won't [always] play small ball, but it certainly gives us another option," he said.

Filling the void left by Sudol in recent games has been third-year Concordia College transfer Andrew Parker, who put up 17 points in the loss to Arizona State University and added 23 more Friday against Simon Fraser. His above the rim play will win him many fans in his time as a Bear.

"I am absolutely astounded by [Parker] right now. I'm just praying that he can keep it going," said Horwood. "Not only does he bring tremendous athleticism, quickness, and great defensive hustle, but he brings unbelievable energy. His talking, his excitement, his enthusiasm, he has brought so much to our team right now. To be honest with you, we wouldn't be where we are right now without him."



PKT/YTE



FLASHBACK Alex Gaumont Casias and the Bears face TWU this weekend in a rematch of this past March's CIS Finals. FILE PHOTO: NEAL WILDING

Volleyball Bears ready for CIS finals rematch

Both Golden Bears and Trinity Western University teams are ready to rumble

ANDREW RENFREE
Sports Staff

Over the years, television has brought many great rivalries into living rooms across Canada: Inspector Gadget and Dr. Claw, Seinfeld and Newman, Ichy and Scratchy, Peter Griffin and that large angry chicken, and to a lesser, more disguised extent, Pat Sajak and Alex Trebek.

And it was television that brought one of the best volleyball rivalries alive last March as the Golden Bears took on the Trinity Western Spartans in the CIS gold medal game. The final pitted the top two teams in Canada against each other and the result on the court didn't disappoint. It was arguably one of the best matches of the volleyball season, eventually seeing the Bears defeat the Spartans in the fifth and final set by two points. This weekend that rivalry will heat up a few more degrees in the U of A Main Gym.

Alberta setter Brock Davidiuk said he would "definitely" categorize the relationship between the Bears and Spartans as a rivalry. Fuel was added to this inter-provincial fire in late September when each team garnered a victory over the other in two pre-season matches.

"There's always a huge rivalry," Davidiuk said. "They're coming out to beat us and we're coming out the same way—I expect them to have a lot of court-hate for us. My expectation of them is that they're going to be training all year to beat us, and a lot of our guys have been training the same way since we lost to them back in September—a lot of guys want

redemption for that."

Trinity Western has only lost one set this season and has posted an impressive 8-0 record early in the year. Bears head coach Terry Danyluk attributes this to the minimal player turnover they've had from last year. The Spartans have their whole team back except for a change at the libero position. Trinity has also had a favourable schedule in the opening stretch of the season, playing six of their eight games at home. Danyluk said he expected TWU to have early success.

"There's always a huge rivalry. They're coming out to beat us and we're coming out the same way—I expect them to have a lot of court-hate for us."

**BROCK DAVIDIUK
BEARS SETTER**

"Everybody knew that they were going to be one of the top two teams, so [their record] is no surprise to me," Danyluk said. "We knew that they were going to be one of the teams at the top and in the running all season."

The Spartans took the Bears' spot atop the CIS rankings after an Alberta loss to UBC on 4 November. This marked the first time that the Bears weren't ranked number one in the country since the end of the 2004 season, but Danyluk said this didn't concern him or his players.

"The most important thing is the standings at the end of the year," he said.

Danyluk expects this weekend's matches to be long and hard-fought, but added that his Bears can beat TWU if they bring their A-game to the court.

"Any time that you get the two teams that played in the final playing together it should be an exciting game," said Danyluk. "If both teams play their best, it's going to be a really long match, but I think that we have the capacity to win against Trinity Western if we play our best volleyball. I'm looking forward to this weekend."

Davidiuk says that he's had this weekend's match-up on his mind for some time. "I always think about playing Trinity, but the problem with focusing on one team all season is that that's a lot of attention you're putting into one game," he said. "I think it's better to treat every game like it's the national championship, so I'm going to take that approach this weekend."

Davidiuk indicated that the key to beating the Spartans will be the emotional leadership from some of the Bears' veteran players.

"One thing we're going to be working on this week is building that passion to beat them. I think a lot of that will come from our leaders—from Nicholas [Cundy], from Leo [Carroll] and myself. Guys are going to take it upon their shoulders to be personally responsible to win these games."

The matches will start at 7pm on Friday and Saturday in the Main Gym.

Gateway Sports:



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Shootouts, open play and a capped-out league: Gateway sports on the new NHL



GATEWAY
SPORTS STAFF

Sports
Commentary

Increased goal-scoring, a cleaner game and shoot-outs that settle games that overtime couldn't find a winner for: the NHL has come roaring back from its year of business-bickering and has formerly disgruntled hockey fans singing the praises of what they're watching today. The Gateway's sports staff is no different. Here are our favourite aspects of "the new NHL."

Ross Prusakowski

Ever so slowly the player circles just behind the red line, dancing towards the puck and a break in alone on the net and a sure encounter with the evening's highlight reel, whether they score, miss the net entirely, or fall down in the process.

While the NHL may have brought in the shootout to settle games, a penalty shot in the middle of a game is still the most exciting play in hockey. So, the best part of "the new NHL" is that no longer are the chances of seeing one as low as the Oilers adding another Stanley Cup banner to the rafters at Rexall Place.

With just over a quarter of the season gone, the zebras have handed out 28 penalty shots so far—on pace to shatter the 57 shots handed out in 2003/04—and created heart-stopping drama, even in the middle of blow outs. A variety of features of the "new NHL," from the removal of the red

line and institution of new officiating standards have opened up the game, making it more watchable.

So while some may point to those mundane areas as the best part of the revamped NHL, nothing can compare to the return of the penalty shot to a place of prominence in the game. Especially since nothing else has the power to create interest in the stands and panic goaltenders like a referee pointing to centre ice.

Trevor Phillips

For the first time in a long time, the NHL has become marketable again. And if the NHL is marketable again, that must mean two things: one, the referees and the NHL have implemented rules to break the defensive trap and end offence interfering obstruction penalties; and two, Gretzky is back.

Well, besides the Great One stepping behind the Coyotes bench, the refs have in fact cracked down on those frustrating interference stick penalties. This has removed the clutch and grab mentality, lifting the trap style of defence and opening the game up to feature speed and offensive talent.

Three things have emerged as top draws in the NHL as a result of the now-wide-open play and rule changes. First, no lead is safe. It's ridiculously entertaining to see a team be down 5-3 and then win 6-5 in overtime. Second, a quicker pace and less whistles means the game is fast, efficient and memorable. The new rule changes have resulted in games being completed in just over two and a half hours. Third, the shootout. Although I hate the shootout as a means to end a team sport based on individual play, as a marketing gimmick, it's amazing. Besides, its effective-

ness to produce a clear winner and still honour the game that was played in terms of points, and to have an entire building standing on their feet at the end of a game just waiting to explode proves the shootout is beneficial.

Though Wayne may not be back on the ice, at least the game that is back on the ice fits to the way he played.

Andrew Renfree

I'm writing this shortly after Ryan Smyth scored the game-winning goal in a shootout.

16 000-plus fans at Rexall Place went wild as Smyth scored to seal the game for the Oilers. The shootout is just one of the many changes that the NHL has made this season in hopes of resuscitating a dying game and coaxing frustrated fans back. It's an exciting element that ensures that one team is declared a winner—because seriously, nobody likes a tie. But the shootout isn't the best element of the new NHL, the salary cap is.

No, I'm not an accountant who gets his kicks from numbers and dollars, but if it weren't for the salary cap, it would still be the same old teams in the shootout and the same teams passing the puck through the neutral zone. It would still be the same forwards being free from clutching and grabbing and they would play for the same teams that they did before the lockout. But it was the salary cap that really shuffled the league and brought some big names to some smaller hockey markets. Would Chris Pronger be playing in Edmonton if the cap hadn't been in place? Not likely. Would Paul Kariya find himself wearing a Nashville jersey this season? Probably not. So while the myriad of changes

on the ice have made the game better, it's the salary cap and its subsequent roster shuffles that have made this season great.

Patrick Ross

The single best thing going in the NHL right now is the youth movement. It seems everywhere you look around the league, there's either a hot-shot rookie or a second- or third-year player who is just now coming into their own.

Look beyond the obvious examples of Sidney Crosby and Alexander Ovechkin, and you'll find a phenomenal crop of young talent that is on the verge of shining brighter than their veteran counterparts. Whether it be rookies Cory Perry, Jussi Jokinen, Mike Richards or Dion Phaneuf (in Anaheim, Dallas, Philadelphia and Calgary respectively) or Alex Hemsky or Jason Spezza (in Edmonton and Ottawa), young players are all the rage in the new NHL.

With players like Robbie Shirrep and Evgeni Malkin still waiting for their crack at NHL hockey, there is enough young talent coming into the NHL that fans can actually stop worrying about the impending departures of players like Joe Sakic and Mario Lemieux. In fact, the next generation of top NHLers may have the next generation of hockey fans saying "Mario who?"

Brian Ramchandar

My choice for favourite aspect of the "new NHL" is an easy one to make: the increased offensive production seen throughout the league. Take Ottawa as a prime example: as of

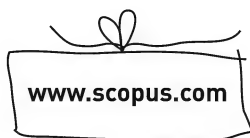
Wednesday, the Sens had scored a league-leading 90 goals in only 19 games—an average of 4.7 goals per game. Whether it's due to Alfredredd shedding his Krusty-the-C clown-like hair of last season in favour of a new aerodynamic haircut, or a collective fear of Dany Heatley being allowed to drive the team bus as punishment for poor play, the Senators are scoring at will, and leaving a list of humbled teams in their wake. Goals and victories are piling up at rates similar to those of the '80s-era Oilers, except the Sens are doing it without a coked-out Grant Fuhr between the pipes.

But it's not just Ottawa experiencing an offensive outburst; teams like Detroit, Colorado, Philadelphia and Los Angeles are all lighting the lamp with ease. The only exception seems to be Columbus who, with only 38 goals in 21 games, would probably have a hard time scoring in a brothel with Ron Jeremy as their coach. Otherwise, it's a good time to be a hockey fan, and a bad time to be an NHL goalie.

Paul Owen

My favourite thing about the new NHL isn't seeing Pavel Datsyuk flying down the wing, or seeing a guy like Chris Pronger in an Oilers jersey. Hell, I'm not even an Oilers fan.

I love seeing Pavol Demitra, Craig Conroy and Alexander Frolov combine for a plethora of points on a Sunday night and my fantasy hockey team turn a losing week into a winning one. Fantasy sports even makes me cheer when a guy like Marc Savard has a ten-point week or Bryan McCabe scores three goals and adds four helpers. I just hate when it happens during the week I play them.



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NEW CHALLENGES Lindsay McAlpine and her Pandas teammates are after their seventh and eighth wins of the season. FILE PHOTO: NICK WEBER

Puck Pandas hoping to run the herd over the edge

Hockey team hopes to make Clare Drake Arena resemble Head-Smashed-In-Buffalo-Jump as eighth-ranked Manitoba Bisons come in for weekend series

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
Sports Staff

For years in CIS women's hockey there have always been two classes: the University of Alberta Pandas and everyone else. However, with the graduation of key players and the development of programs across the league, the gap has narrowed this season, plunging Alberta into some tight contests and keeping other teams within striking distance of the top spot in the conference.

"I think [the level of competition] has improved in terms of team speed and goaltending. All the teams seem to be a little faster, and I don't think there's a team in our conference that doesn't have a good goaltender. That, in addition to us losing some of the players we did, is why I think we're seeing some of the closer scores that we have been."

Trying to close the gap between the second-ranked Pandas and themselves will be the eighth-ranked University of Manitoba Bisons, who roam into Clare Drake Arena this weekend for a pair of games. The Bisons are currently second to the Pandas in Canada West, and are the team that Draper thinks has made the most improvement after they captured their first playoff berth last season.

"Manitoba's a team that made some big gains in the last few years. They've got a coach in place that has taught them to play very well defensively. They've continued to make improvements to their program every year, and I think it's good for our league," he said.

"I think [the level of competition] has improved in terms of team speed and goaltending. All the teams seem to be a little faster, and I don't think there's a team in our conference that doesn't have a good goaltender."

HOWIE DRAPER
PANDAS HOCKEY COACH

"These two games against them are very important and could allow us to get some breathing room between us and the rest of the teams in Canada West."

With Draper and his coaching staff taking time to develop players to fill

the void left by five-time All-Canadian forward Danielle Bourgeois, among other key losses from last year's team, not to mention the proliferation of talent around the league, it's unlikely that they'll be able to dominate Canada West like they have in past years. This means that more than a few of the returning Pandas have had to adjust to squeaking out victories, though winning a close game can be much more fulfilling than blowing a team out, according to Draper.

"[Winning] has been a little more rewarding than in the past because the level of competition has improved," he said. "I don't think it's frustrating—it has the potential to be frustrating, because the majority of the players that are back are used to winning by a sizable margin and dominating the other teams."

"When we get behind—and we've gotten behind a couple of times this year—the tendency has been to get frustrated and start to do things as individuals, and when we do that, that's when we start to worry," he added. "But we've been able to rebound and when we do that, things go well, and I think we're able to beat any team in the league."

The Pandas will look to add the Bisons to their list of victories on Friday and Saturday night at Clare Drake Arena. The action will get underway at 7pm on both nights.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Red Deer College in Kenya. 1-30 May, 2006. Masai Mara Tsavo National Park, Indian Ocean Coast. Principles of ecology and/or indigenous and cultural minorities in the modern world. www.rdc-abca.ca (403) 342-3904.

Want to study MEDICINE in Europe? www.medical-school.ca and canadainmedical-school.ca.

Karma Tashi Tibet Buddhist Centre, Lama Ani Kunsang resident teacher, invites students and staff to Buddhist meditation practice Weds 7pm, 10502 70 Ave, 633-6157. Library craft sale. 19 and 30 November, 2005, 9:30am-3pm. Professors Emeriti Reading

Room, 3-03 Cameron Library. Free admission/door prices.

EMPLOYMENT - FULL TIME

Les Salons Lingerie in West Edmonton Mall is hiring permanent full- and part-time sales positions. This position requires individuals who are hardworking and outgoing. Hours are flexible and the wage is hourly plus commission. Please call or fax your resume to Nicole at 444-4992.

Earls Bourbon St in West Edmonton Mall is hiring experienced waiters/waitresses for the upcoming busy Christmas season! We are looking for both full- and part-time employment to continue into the New Year. Please apply directly on location.

EMPLOYMENT - PART TIME

Metalsmiths Trendy accessory store UEM (Phase 3) and Southgate has positions for 5 part-time (15-20hrs weekly) and 2 semi full-time positions (20-30hrs weekly). Excellent wages, monthly bonuses, great staff discount. (Student schedules are always accommodated, and respected).

Metalsmiths Trendy accessory store (WEM) Phase 3 has positions for 5 part-time (15-20 hrs weekly) and 2 semi full-time positions (20-30hrs weekly). "Shifts available" Weekdays: (9am-5pm), (1pm-9pm), (4pm-9pm) and (5pm-9pm). Weekends: (9am-5pm), (1pm-9pm), (11am-6pm), (12pm-7pm) and (1pm-7pm). We offer excellent wages, monthly bonuses, fantastic staff discount. Apply in person with resume. Ask for Nicole. Best of all, student schedules are always accommodated and respected.

RA, Mulatest & Associates Ltd., Western Canada's largest independent research firm, requires part-time interviewers. Absolutely no sales involved. French an asset. Flexible schedule, good for students. Over \$9.50/hour + bonuses. Send resume to parrow@mulatest.com or fax 780-448-9047.

Edmonton YMCA child care services now hiring PT child care programmers for TTH shifts (5-6:45-8). South locations. Competitive salary. Free YMCA membership. No experience required. Call 429-5705, for more information.

Les Salons Lingerie in West Edmonton Mall is looking for a long-term reliable, hardworking and outgoing University student. The position is full-time or part-time with immediate start date and has flexible hours. If this sounds like you, drop off your resume or call Nicole at 444-4992.

Perm PT/Wknd delivery driver/helper needed. Busy downtown ethnic grocery store. Must have clean class 5 drivers license. Fax resume 424-6542.

Work and have fun at the Hi-Travel Shop! Travel and customer service experience an asset. Flexible hours, close to University. Call 439-3089.

PT receptionist required for physical therapy clinic. Walking distance from UofA. Prefer Mon/Wed/Fri afternoon availability. Flexible hours. Available immediately. Fax resume to 430-9229.

Caregiver required for two little boys ages 2 and 4 in their home. 8am-4pm 2 or 3 day/week. Sense of humour essential! Call Monica 437-7441.

PT m-fam personal care Aide needed for 22/7 frsqd, Southgate area. Training provided. Call Lisa 425-4550.

Wanted - guitar teachers. Weed Music Ltd., the premier music school in Spruce Grove needs qualified guitar teachers. Starting at \$15/hour. Call Gehres or Laura Weed 968-0905.

Childcare providers needed for Boys and Girls Clubs of Edm. Help needed in West Edm and/or North Edm. \$10/hr, 3hrs/wk, per site. For details www.boysandgirls.ab.ca or 481-1235.

Need "Christmas" cash? 4-6 week program. \$18.05 base/ppt. Flex sched, cut sales/service, will train. Conditions apply. 453-9006 or www.winterbreakwork.com.

Want to prove to the next generation that SCIENCE ROCKS? WISEST needs a part-time project coordinator to help organize the Choices and SET Conferences for elementary and high school girls. For more details, refer to the CAPS online job posting (888) or the WISEST website: www.wisestualberta.ca. Deadline is 2 December or until a suitable candidate is found.

PERSONALS

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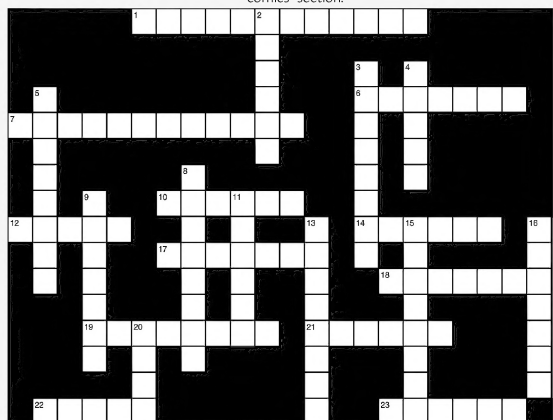
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CROSSWORD

The Vgword: compiled by Scott C Bourgeois. The solution is available at www.gateway.ualberta.ca on the "comics" section.



Across

1. In *Ultima IV* this shrine could only be accessed by passing through the moon gates during the double full moon.

6. In the original *Dragon Warrior*,

you play as the descendant of this legendary hero.

7. This robot master gives Mega Man X the Shotgun Ice attack.

12. Blinky, Inky, Pinky and Clyde

are all characters from this video game.

14. The intrepid mascot of *Nintendo Power Magazine*

17. The Triforce has three main components. One is The Triforce

of Power, one is The Triforce of Wisdom, this is the third.

18. The name of the Precursor battleship that the Ur-Quan Khr-Ah and Kzer-Za are warring over in *Star Control II*.

19. In the *Rogue Encampment*, if you put a Tome of Town Portal and Wirt's Leg into the Horadic Cube, you'll open a portal to this mystical level.

21. After obtaining the Rat Tail in *Final Fantasy*, a Black Belt would upgrade to this class.

22. Donkey Kong got his name because the Japanese designer thought Donkey, in English, meant this.

23. The name of the protagonist of much of the *King's Quest* series.

Down

2. Created by a Russian mathematician, this simple puzzle game was a hit through the '80s and '90s.

3. The infamous internet phenomenon "All Your Base Are Belong To Us" is based on

this badly translated video game.

4. The god-mode code from *Doom*.

5. The protagonist of *Fallout* comes from this underground Vault.

8. When Ken and Ryu throw their fireball attacks, they shout this.

9. The name of Guybrush Threepwood's nemesis.

11. This zone is the second that Sonic the Hedgehog visits in the original *Sonic game*.

13. The *Terran Battlecruiser* in *Starcraft* is this class.

15. Probably the first video game, this game preceded *Pong* by 10 years.

16. The host of this super violent game-show's catch phrase was "Big Money. Big Prizes. I Love It!"

20. Mario and Luigi have battled Bowser dozens of times across the Mushroom Kingdom, but this toad was the final boss of *Super Mario Bros 2*.

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